

Moscow offer of freeze on arms spending

War of words continues over embassy bugging

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

With four days to go before Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, arrives in Moscow for arms control talks, both sides yesterday jockeyed for position in the world opinion stakes.

The Warsaw Pact threw down a proposal on military spending which was clearly timed to pick up propaganda points before the crucial meetings.

It proposed a freeze for up to two years both on its own military spending and that of Nato. Similar ideas have been mooted in the past, only to run aground on verification obstacles.

The Pact said that the moratorium could open the way for a reduction of troops and conventional arms in Europe without delay.

A State Department official said that at first sight the proposal looked very significant, but close examination would be needed to determine whether it was more than a propaganda exercise.

Earlier, both the Americans and Russians took up new positions in the "bugged embassies" dispute.

The Americans said that a portable "bubble" would be erected inside their long-prone Moscow embassy to provide a secure communications room for Mr Shultz during his visit.

The bubble, formally known as a "conference facility", replaces an earlier proposal to send a large motorized caravan to Moscow to serve as his office.

American officials let it be known that although "damaged" by Soviet spying inside the embassy, Mr Shultz felt the trip was too important to cancel.

The Russian authorities, for their part, unveiled evidence of eavesdropping devices which they said had been put into their new embassy in Washington at the behest of United States intelligence services.

The Soviet allegations related not only to the as yet unoccupied new embassy in Washington but to a new Mr Mikhail Gorbachev was mobbed by enthusiastic crowds when he went on a walkabout in Prague shortly after his much-delayed arrival for a three-day visit to Czechoslovakia. Page 18

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residential block in Washington, the consulate in San Francisco and the mission to the United Nations in New York.

A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman in Moscow claimed the state-of-the-art eavesdropping devices were found in the foundations of buildings and in tunnels underneath them, in television sockets, in brick walls and in the ceiling material used for windows.

"The facts here today serve as unambiguous proof that there have been massive spy activities against Soviets abroad," the spokesman said.

He alleged that the electronic listening devices were also found in diplomat's bedrooms, in their living quarters and their leisure facilities.

"The huge proportion of electronic eavesdropping by US intelligence against Soviet missions was material evidence of who really intrudes into other's sovereign territory," the statement said.

The "evidence" as well as photographs and diagrams included bits of wiring and cable. The spying equipment was said to include bulky rooftop eavesdropping devices as well as miniature bugs embedded in walls. Highly sensitive microphones were said to have been found in the foundations of Soviet-used buildings, and radio systems had been discovered in reinforced concrete.

Infra-red signals were alleged to have been used as well as optical transmitters to help the US spying activities.

Mr Ivan Miroshkin of the Foreign Ministry's security department said: "The equipment could only have been put in place by building contractors." Some of the devices had been found, he said, soon after repairs and renovations had been carried out by American building contractors and Russian missions in the United States. Mr Miroshkin said: "Some of the examples were discovered just the other day, and the process of discovering them is still going on."

Continued on page 18, col 3



The Princess of Wales shakes hands with an unidentified AIDS patient in his private room at the Middlessex Hospital in London during her visit yesterday. (Royal visit, page 18)

Government to investigate House of Fraser takeover

By John Bell, City Editor

takeover of House of Fraser by the Egyptian-born Al-Fayed brothers in 1985. The brothers made their cash offer after purchasing a key block of almost 30 per cent of Fraser shares from Lorrho.

The inspectors appointed by Mr Paul Channon, the Trade Secretary, are a lawyer and an accountant, Mr Philip Reslop, QC, the lawyer, is co-incidentally acting currently for Mr Ernest Saunders, the former chairman of Guinness.

The Government has appointed inspectors to investigate House of Fraser, the department store chain which owns Harrods. The decision was taken after the international trading group Lorrho supplied information to the Department of Trade during the past three weeks.

Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, the chief executive of Lorrho, has been waging a campaign to force an investigation of the £565 million

The accountant is Mr Hugh Aldous of the City firm Robson Rhodes.

Mr Channon has asked the inspectors to look at the circumstances surrounding the acquisition of shares in House of Fraser during 1984 and 1985.

Mr Mohamed Al-Fayed said last night that "our immediate reaction is to welcome the inquiry as an opportunity to clear this matter up once and for all."

Thatcher looks to Europe for help on Japan

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Prime Minister yesterday reiterated Britain's willingness to take sanctions against Japan unless the Japanese opened their markets more to British goods and financial institutions.

But the emphasis is switching to joint action by the European Community as ministers recognize the limitations of unilateral action against Japan.

Amid clashes with Mr Neil Kinnock in the Commons yesterday, Mrs Margaret Thatcher disclosed that a meeting of officials from EEC trade ministries in Brussels today will discuss proposals put by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, to his Common Market counterparts in Antwerp last weekend, with a view to urgent action.

They will be considering more effective action against the dumping of components by Japan; the possible "unbinding" of Community tariffs on certain products and any measures which might be necessary to act against diversion if the United States implements protective duties against Japan.

The British hope is that by "unbinding" tariffs agreed under GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) the meeting will enable EEC countries to lift the tariffs on Japanese consumer electronics.

As a side-effect of the enlargement of the EEC to include Spain and Portugal, Japan has been able to send in tape recorders, compact discs, microwave ovens and the like with payment of no more than a 7 per cent tariff.

The aim is to lift that as soon as possible to the 14 per cent tariff already applying to some other Japanese goods.

On anti-dumping measures, Britain is looking for specific action to limit the flood of Japanese goods which are arriving for simple screwdriver assembly, including photocopyers.

As for the question of diversion, the Government fears that Japan may try to swamp Europe with goods if

she finds that American markets are closed to her by the actions threatened in the US and is anxious to have European counteraction co-ordinated from the start.

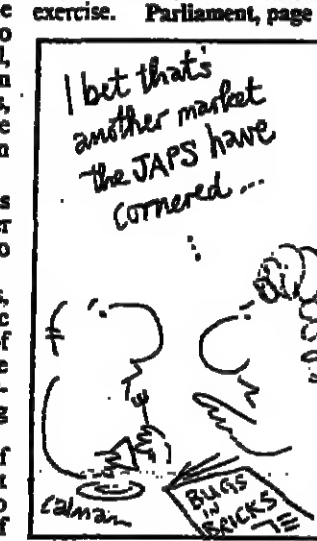
However, although Mrs Thatcher made much of the Brussels meeting in her Commons speech, it is no more than a monthly get-together of officials at Deputy Secretary and Under Secretary level.

And the British are well aware, as Mrs Thatcher made clear in the Commons, that the Danes, the Dutch and the Germans by no means share our anxiety for swift action against Japan.

Though a statement from the Government outlining some initial moves and a Commons debate are expected soon after Easter, there is some nervousness among ministers that the Government may have excited expectations of action against Japan which it cannot fulfil.

They were warning yesterday that it will take a long time to tackle Japan effectively on Britain's trade imbalance, and that it will require collective action by the EEC and by GATT (which does not meet until November).

In the Commons Mr Kinnock condemned the visit to Japan by Mr Michael Howard, the Minister for Consumer Affairs, as a fruitless exercise. Parliament, page 4



INSIDE

Appeal to Gorbachov by Herzog

On the last full day of his West German tour, President Herzog of Israel used a visit to West Berlin to launch "an appeal across the Wall" to Mr Mikhail Gorbachov to fulfil his reform policy by "opening the gates" and letting Soviet Jews out. Page 8
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IN PART 2

Lloyd's plan

Lloyd's of London has proposed a final solution to end what is described as "one of the most shameful episodes" in its history, the long-running PCW scandal. Page 19

England win

England's cricketers beat Australia by 11 runs to go top of the Sharjah Cup table on a run rate with one match remaining. Page 34

Portfolio Gold

● Yesterday's £4,000 prize in The Times Portfolio Gold competition was won by Mr D. Ryde, of Newhaven, and Wednesday's delayed £4,000 prize by Dr T.C. Sharma, of Airdrie. Details, page 3.
● Portfolio list, page 23.

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Company to cut 2,000 jobs

Younger bails out Westland

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The Government announced what amounted to a £300 million rescue package yesterday for the Westland helicopter company which has been facing a grim short-term future because of its empty order book.

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, announced that he would be ordering 25 of the new EH101 helicopters for the Army and 16 Lynxes for airmobile operations.

Although the orders had been largely anticipated, it was clear that the Lynx order had not been budgeted for and the Treasury will have to find an extra £50 million to £100 million over and above the £19 billion defence budget.

A senior government source admitted last night that the extra order was "a help package" to sustain Britain's only helicopter manufacturing company.

Despite yesterday's announcement which was welcomed by Westland, urgent talks will be held with the workforce to decide where the inevitable redundancies will have to fall.

A spokesman for the Westland chairman, Sir John Cuckney, said last night that it was likely that jobs would be cut by one third, which would mean 2,000 redundancies. The most vulnerable plant will be the Weston-super-Mare factory, which employs 1,100 people.

A further 900 or so will have to go at Yeovil in Somerset.

Mr Jerry Wiggin, Conservative MP for Weston-super-Mare, said in the Commons yesterday that it had already been decided that the factory in his constituency would be closed, which was "outrageous". However the spokesman for Sir John denied that a decision had yet been made.

Mr Dennis Davies, Labour defence spokesman, accused Mr Younger of making a statement that was a blow to the Westland company and that the orders would not make up for the deficiency in battlefield helicopters.

But Mr Younger rounded off his statement by saying: "Continued on page 18, col 7"

Bodies returned to Dover

From David Sapsed, Zebrugge

The first bodies to be recovered since the Herald of Free Enterprise was sighted are expected to be shipped back to Dover today. It is possible that up to 70 victims will be returned by the weekend.

Mr Richard Sturt, Dover coroner, and the Belgian judge heading the inquiry into the disaster, agreed yesterday on the need to repatriate bodies as quickly as possible.

Kent police officers in Zebrugge said last night that the process of identifying victims was going very smoothly and appeared, once more, for relatives to stay at home.

The bodies are first taken to a makeshift morgue in a hangar at the Zebrugge Naval Base, where a team of 16 British pathologists work alongside Belgian colleagues.

Work by divers to recover bodies was called off yesterday evening after they had found eight more corpses. The seven-man Royal Navy team is likely to be withdrawn today.

State officials in West Flanders also said yesterday that there had been a mistake in Wednesday's figure of 123 bodies recovered since the ship's sinking. The figure last night stood at 112, plus 61 found before Tuesday's salvage.

A Townsend Thoresen spokesman said B and C decks, the main passenger areas, were now believed to be clear of bodies, although Belgian rescue teams will continue the search today, particularly in the wrecked kitchen area where debris has accumulated.

High-pressure water pumps were used yesterday to clear mud from the port side of the ship.

The Dutch salvage crew is hopeful that the Herald's own hydraulic system can be used to close the undamaged, watertight inner doors. Divers also confirmed yesterday that the ship's hull was not damaged in the tragedy.

Making the vessel watertight and refloating it could take another two weeks. Then it will be possible to recover up to 20 bodies believed still to be entombed.

Ferry safety, page 2

Labour pledge on united Ireland

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Labour Party yesterday pledged itself more strongly than ever before to work for a united Ireland and to prevent the Unionist majority in Ulster exercising a veto against political developments or policies designed to win consent for unification.

A new party policy statement agreed after months of delicate internal negotiations made clear that Labour's long-standing commitment that unification could only take place with the consent of the majority of the people in Northern Ireland stands.

But under a Labour government the Unionists would not be able to block political developments falling short of unification, but designed ultimately to achieve that end.

Among the measures immediately proposed is the establishment of a programme to harmonize the economic and welfare systems throughout Ireland.

The document, *New Rights, New Prosperity and New Hope for Northern Ireland*, was described by Mr Peter Archer, the party's chief spokesman on Northern Ireland, as an updating, rather than a change, in the party's policy.

But he acknowledged there were important changes in emphasis. It made clear that "although we believe in unification by consent we do pledge ourselves to work for consent."

He added: "We also make clear what was implicit in past statements. The fact that there will be consent before there is any constitutional transformation does not mean that everything is to do with unification."

The document appears to be a compromise between those who wanted no change in the party's stance and a body of opinion within the party which wanted the veto on unification to be significantly weakened.

The document commits Labour to supporting the Anglo-Irish agreement's position that no change in the status of Northern Ireland could happen without majority consent but adds that "no group or party should or will be allowed to exercise a veto on political development or on policies designed to win consent."

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Tory MEPs rebel over UK's research stand

From Jonathan Brande, Strasbourg

The European Parliament yesterday condemned the British Government's refusal to provide funds for EEC research programmes, as more than half the British Conservatives rebelled against the Government's stand.

The assembly voted by 141-4 with one abstention in support of a motion deploring the Government's attitude as "dominated by a narrowly national and budgetary approach", and giving Britain three weeks to change its mind.

The motion called on Britain not to "veto" the creation of a "technological community" of EEC nations.

The vote, timed to coincide with a crucial Cabinet discussion on research spending in London, was the climax of a long-running parliamentary campaign to get Britain to agree to a five-year £5 billion programme of research.

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See-the-stars tours at Hollywood on the Irwell

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

An £8 million tourism development could next summer launch the Granada television and film studios in central Manchester as Europe's first equivalent of Hollywood's Universal Studios with see-the-stars tours.

The best-known set on the 15 riverside acres just north of the Manchester city centre is that for *Coronation Street*.

The plan emerged yesterday when an offer of £750,000 Government support for the project was announced by Mr David Trippier, minister for tourism at the Department of Employment. It is expected to create several hundred jobs.

At Granada Television, whose chairman Mr David Plowright first had the idea of exploiting the studios' potential, the project has apparently informally been dubbed "Hollywood on the Irwell" after the name of the nearby river. The official line is that it is Britain's first urban heritage park and a new Granada Group subsidiary, Granada Tours, will be in charge of the development which will also have some elements of a Disney-style theme park with animated characters and live entertainment.

Three-hour studio tours are envisaged, possibly at about £5 a head, and those going during the week would see rehearsals or shooting for the studio productions. It would mean, down on the *Coronation Street* set, seeing Jean Alexander playing charring Hilda Ogden, Julie Goodyear landing Lady at the Rovers Return and William Roache, the longest serving actor on the Street, appearing as Ken Barlow.

In planning the move Granada has noted how other settings for television series have lured the tourist. Coach trips to the locales of *Emmerdale Farm* and *Last of the Summer Wine* have been booming.

Increased Government aid flowing into tourism will help make 1987 a bumper year, according to Mr Trippier. Last December, the latest month for which statistics are available, north American visitors were up 10 per cent on the 1985 level.

This trend and a high level of forward bookings promises well for 1987, it is claimed in an analysis of tourism in 1986 published yesterday as a Department of Employment booklet *A Bumper Year for Tourism*.

In the past year the Government,

NEWS SUMMARY

Poll puts paid to teachers' claims

Most parents in England and Wales believe that teachers are neither underpaid nor justified in striking over the Government's decision to remove their negotiating rights.

A MORI poll commissioned by *The Times Educational Supplement*, published yesterday, found that 54 per cent of those questioned thought that teachers were not underpaid, 33 per cent thought they were and 13 per cent did not know. Asked whether teachers were justified in striking, 54 per cent said no, 39 per cent said yes and 7 per cent did not know. The majority against the teachers rose to 61 per cent among parents of children at secondary school. The greatest support came from Labour voters, 56 per cent of whom said they were justified in striking.

The poll, the first real test of parental opinion since the dispute began three years ago, contradicts the repeated claim of the two biggest teaching unions, which intend to continue strikes after Easter, that most parents support them.

Record heroin haul

Detectives from Scotland Yard's drug squad have seized eight kilos of heroin worth £1.25 million in a raid on a flat in central London during an investigation code-named Operation Duplicate. It is the largest haul of heroin made by police in Britain.

Two people were being questioned last night by detectives at Paddington Police Station. One man was arrested in a flat in Kendal Street where the drugs were found. The second man was discovered at a restaurant which was being used as a meeting place for a deal.

The heroin, one kilo of which had been broken up into 4,000 quarter-gram portions for distribution, is believed to be part of a major source of supply for the West End.

700 yard jobs to go Contract pledge

Union leaders in Northern Ireland fear that the loss of a further 700 jobs at Harland and Wolff shipyard will lead to the eventual closure of the province's second largest manufacturing employer.

The white-collar redundancies at the shipyard, which once employed 25,000 people and was a symbol of "loyalist" hegemony, are expected to be announced within days. They will reduce the workforce to 3,500, the lowest level in its 125-year history.

Swan Hunter, the shipbuilding company based on Tyneside, is preparing a £120 million attempt to build a fleet auxiliary vessel which may safeguard jobs.

Mr George Younger, the Secretary for Defence, has said the company will be awarded the contract for the Royal Navy's second auxiliary oil refueling vessel if it can match the price of the first ship, now being built at Harland and Wolff in Belfast.

IRA funeral rethink

The Provisional IRA may reconsider its policy of firing volleys of shots at the funerals of "volunteers".

This follows the controversy surrounding the funeral of one of its members in Northern Ireland.

Mr Danay Morrison, a leading figure in Provisional Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, said the IRA may honour its dead by firing shots over a memorial some time after a funeral rather than over the coffin during the funeral.

Meanwhile Dr Cahal Daly, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor, has said funerals are not occasions for paramilitary propaganda stunts or the display of police or military strength.

Dyke off to LWT

Mr Greg Dyke, chief of programmes at Television South, is to replace Mr John Birt as director of programmes at London Weekend Television. Mr Birt has been appointed BBC deputy director-general.

Mr Dyke, aged 39, led the revival of TV-am, where he was editor-in-chief before joining TVS three years ago. A former newspaper journalist, Mr Dyke spent six years at LWT as producer of *Weekend World* and editor of *The Six O'Clock Show*, before TV-am.

Appeal over lost jobs

Two Liverpool council employees yesterday asked the High Court to prevent the city's new caretaker Liberal council from dismissing them because of their alleged militant links.

Mr Sam Bond, a race relations adviser, and Miss Beryl Motynex, a former crossing patrol woman who was appointed assistant press officer in the council's education department, expect a ruling today.

A writ was served on Lord Mayor Lady Jones as she formally opened her first full council meeting two weeks ago.

Bishop resents interference by right-wing MPs

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs
Correspondent

Churchmen reacted resentfully yesterday to the report that right-wing Conservative MPs had intervened to stop the Bishop of Stepney, the Rt Rev James Thompson, from becoming Bishop of Birmingham because he was "too left wing".

The man chosen instead as bishop-elect of Birmingham, the present Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Rev Mark Santer, was promptly invited by a fellow bishop to show he

was not right wing either, and could "thump the tub" with the best of them.

The Bishop of Kensington responded with a statement declaring it to be his duty to love "above all, the poor and disadvantaged" and to engage in controversy in the cause of justice, without playing the role of politician. He stood "shoulder to shoulder with all my fellow bishops in believing that you cannot love God without loving your neighbour".

He said the wide consultations he had made before de-

ciding to accept the nomination were not connected with the issues reported in *The Times* yesterday, of which he was unaware.

The man who will be his second in command in Birmingham, the Bishop of Aston, the Rt Rev Colin Buchanan, said he had telephoned Bishop Santer after seeing the report in *The Times* to tell him that "he would be very wise to make it clear he is not a right winger, as he is certainly not".

He told the *World at One* programme on BBC radio that

if any right-wing MP had been "crowing" about preventing a left-wing bishop from being appointed, it should be checked out whether he was really entitled to crow. "You must ask whether the new Bishop of Birmingham is prepared to thump the tub, and my impression is he is. I certainly am."

He said he had long believed that the Prime Minister's role should be eliminated from the process of selecting bishops of the Church of England, and that, well before knowing who had been ap-

pointed to Birmingham he had been arguing along the lines of the remark attributed to him in *The Times* yesterday. He had tabled a motion for debate by his diocesan synod in June.

Bishop Buchanan was chairman of the Birmingham Vacancy-in-Sce Committee which had advised the Crown Appointments Commission, and was responding to yesterday's report that Mrs Margaret Thatcher had chosen the second preference put forward by the commission, the Bishop of Kensington.

after lobbying by Conservative MPs against the first choice, the Bishop of Stepney. He was described by them as "too left wing", and Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP for Selby, declared that for Birmingham "had had enough left wingers and did not need another tub-thumping bishop".

Concerning the Bishop of Stepney, he said: "I have no reason to connect his name officially with this particular appointment whatsoever. We discussed a whole variety of names."

Civil Servants threatening to bring country to a halt

By Roland Rudd
and Ian Smith

The general secretaries of the two largest Civil Service unions yesterday warned the Government that it could face the most serious Civil Service strike in British history if their pay demands were not met.

In the event of an all-out strike, customs, passport and immigration posts at air and sea ports would be unmanned, courts severely hit and all VAT, Department of Employment and DHSS offices closed down.

Britain yesterday faced a massive backlog of export freight after the Transport and General Workers' Union blacked exports from the Customs and Excise inland clearance depots in support of striking Civil Servants.

The strikers have closed 13 of Britain's depots, while work-to-rule action is causing disruption at ports and airports.

In Southend, Essex, about fifty computer operators at the Customs and VAT collection centre walked out after a midnight ballot, costing the Government millions of pounds in lost interest.

Mr John Macrae, a militant supporter on the executive committee of the Civil and Public Servants Association, said the rank and file had now taken the initiative into their own hands and were now "leading the hugely successful strike".

The Government has until May 18 to improve the offer of 4.25 per cent so far rejected as "derisory". If no improved offer is made, the 235,000 members of the association and the Society of Civil and Public Servants will be

ballotted and asked to support an all-out strike starting on June 1.

Mr John Ellis, general secretary of the CPSA, said: "Our members have had enough of being ignored and belittled. They are so incensed they will bring the entire country grinding to a halt unless our reasonable demands are met."

"Compared with the immediate effect our action will have, every other strike will pale into insignificance. As responsible people we are loath to withdraw our labour, but the Government's attitude leaves us with no choice."

Mr Ellis said 100,000 Civil Servants take home less than £100 a week; 40,000 counter staff in social security offices face the embarrassment of having to claim the same benefits they pay out to needy families each day.

A mass rally by more than 700 Civil Servants from both unions took place in Liverpool yesterday when they



Striking Civil Servants outside the closed DHSS office in Brixton yesterday. From the left they are Hassan Hassan, Carole Johnson, Stuart Collins, deputy branch secretary of the Civil and Public Servants Association, and Ross Fisher-Smith. (Photograph: Leslie Lee)

Crisis point at benefit office

"The DHSS will never do anything for you unless you swear at them like hell", said Mr Bernard Johnson, a former council youth worker who is now unemployed. "No wonder people want to burn the place down."

Mr Johnson, aged 34, waited two months for his unemployment benefit before learning that the Brixton office had lost his forms.

Earlier this week he spent most of one day queuing for a new form and was then told they were out of stock.

Yesterday he tried again, but after hours of fruitless waiting he stormed out in disgust.

Other frustrated claimants frequently express their anger more violently. Last month a man who had been waiting for his allowance for over five weeks burst into the staff room and demanded money immediately.

Another angry claimant

frustrated claimants found DHSS doors locked in the North West and in Wales yesterday as thousands of Civil Servants went on strike claiming they are underpaid and undermanned. Later the strike hit offices in Scotland and then the South — but there is anger and violence is already erupting at claims counters. Roland Rudd visited Brixton, south London, and found bitterness and chaos.

kicked in door panels when told that his claim could not be processed immediately.

A mother threatened to leave her baby behind if she could not get money for food within the hour. Others smash up the waiting room in blind rage. Often the police have to be called.

At the sharp end of the violence are Civil Servants like Mr Stuart Collins, aged 26, an administrative officer, whose take home pay is £495 a month (including London weighting). He is far from being the lowest paid.

He and 170 other Civil Servants are currently strug-

gling through 1,555 outstanding claims clogging-up Brixton's pending trays.

Two thirds of the Brixton office members of the Civil and Public Servants Association voted for an all-out strike, but union officials are hoping that, in an election year, current tactics will persuade the Government to increase their 4.25 per cent offer, if only by another 2 or 3 per cent.

At the bottom of the rung, administrative assistants aged over 19 get £4,378 a year. Sixteen-year-olds get £3,000 with an increase of £1,000-plus after four years.

returning holidaymakers to declare duty payable on incoming goods. Honesty boxes were left at Customs checkpoints.

NIPSA, the trade union for Civil Servants in Northern Ireland, announced that 1,600 of its members in the DHSS would strike for the whole of next week.

Ferry safety

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

Airline procedures likely for ships

New regulations to bring sea travel more into line with aviation safety rules are likely in the wake of the inquiry into the loss of the *Herald of Free Enterprise*.

Although ministers and officials within the Department of Transport are officially waiting for the outcome of the inquiry into the ferry disaster off Zeebrugge before proposing any changes, there is a growing awareness of the safety gap between passengers in an aircraft and those in a ship or ferry.

The Civil Aviation Authority has blanket powers not only to check the structural and mechanical safety of an aircraft, but also to carry out spot checks into all the procedures employed by the airline which operates it.

It has ordered that passengers must receive detailed emergency instructions before the aircraft is allowed to take off, for example, and enforce strict rules for crew about drinking within nine hours of a flight's departure.

Although there is no evidence that the disaster to the *Herald of Free Enterprise* was connected with either of those regulations, the whole area of difference between safety at sea and safety in the air is now open to debate. A tighter set of regulations is almost certain to follow.

One main difficulty is in ticketing. An aircraft has a detailed list of passengers and a breakdown of whether they are male, female or child.

That is to enable the captain accurately to predict the weight of his aircraft and therefore the amount of fuel he has on board.

A ferry, however, has no such list and is regarded more as a train that floats rather than an aircraft on the sea.

The Department of Transport is looking into ways of ensuring that such a manifest is produced in future, but is coming up against severe practical difficulties.

Every pilot of a commercial aircraft must strictly follow check lists, numbering more than 100 items, before the aircraft can leave and can abort the flight instantly, with no come back from anyone, if he is not happy.

Operating procedures on Townsend Thoresen car ferries have been radically revised since the capsizing of the *Herald of Free Enterprise* (our Transport Correspondent writes).

The most fundamental change introduced is that procedures are now based on

"positive" reporting under which crewmen have formally to report that a task, for example closing the bow doors, has been carried out. Their ferries will not now sail until the master has received that report verbally.

Previously the system was one of "negative reporting" under which it was assumed that a task had been completed, and a verbal report was only supposed to be made when for any reason an order could not be carried out.

Although Townsend Thoresen refused to confirm it, it is understood that before the recent revision its operating instructions said that a master was entitled to assume everything was in order unless a department head informed him to the contrary.

The changes were introduced soon after the Zeebrugge disaster.

Financial mistakes uncovered at college

By Sarah Thompson
Education Reporter

Financial investigators at University College, Cardiff, which has a projected deficit of nearly £17 million by 1990, have uncovered serious mismanagement of funds.

But college authorities yesterday confirmed that no action was contemplated against any present or former members of staff.

Drastic cost-cutting measures are proposed to reduce the deficit.

A report on the college's Centenary Fund, made by three lecturers with Dr Catherine Belsey as chairman, has found that the fund organizers raised only £23,000 instead of the £1.5 million planned for a large sports complex.

Professor Lee Sheridan, the college's acting principal, said yesterday that the fund's debts would be paid by the college, adding to its present debts of £4.5 million.

He added: "We are also discovering a number of smaller debts that were previously unknown, though they do not add much to the total."

The three lecturers report alleged "questionable accounting practices" and legal errors. Mr John King, the fund organizer, has resigned from the college. He was said by Professor Sheridan to have counted as future revenue large sums promised by the local community.

Professor Sheridan said that he had instigated the report on finding that two separate sets of accounts for the fund, from September 1986 and March 1987, did not coincide.

"There is no suggestion of any impropriety on the part of staff or that anyone has made off with funds", he added.

Mr Keith Best, the Conservative MP who made multiple applications for British Telecom shares, broke his week-long silence yesterday to explain why he had decided to carry on till the general election before resigning.

As he did so, Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, told journalists at Westminster that he should have resigned immediately.

"The reason he has not is that the Prime Minister is afraid of a by-election in North Wales."

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"The same honourable members who engaged in malpractices on the purchase of British Telecom shares

Industry warned of 'hidden' manifesto

By Richard Evans
Political Correspondent

The former head of Mrs Thatcher's Downing Street policy unit said yesterday that Labour's "hidden" manifesto of sweeping nationalization could spark off an employment and industrial crisis.

Mr John Redwood, a prospective Conservative parliamentary candidate, said Britain's businessmen were largely unaware of the extent of Labour's plans for state control of industry.

Labour's industrial policy was "full of old-fashioned red-blooded Marxism", apart from a few encouraging proposals about wider ownership.

He was speaking at the launch of a booklet he had written for Aims of Industry, the free enterprise organization, and entitled *Labour's Nationalization Policies: what they are afraid to say, they're not afraid to carry out*.

Mr Redwood, who worked at Downing Street between 1983 and 1985, said Labour's policy of "social ownership" would undoubtedly mean wide-ranging nationalization and state control.

"It is not just a case of renationalization. It would also mean a major attack upon many successful private enterprises. The construction, drug and steel industries would be at the centre of this assault."

Such measures had to be seen against the background of Labour's "incredible" economic strategy, which Mr Redwood said would involve spending an extra £34,000 million while increasing income tax by only two or three pence.

'More to come' on MPs' shares

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr Keith Best, the Conservative MP who made multiple applications for British Telecom shares, broke his week-long silence yesterday to explain why he had decided to carry on till the general election before resigning.

As he did so, Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, told journalists at Westminster that he should have resigned immediately.

"The reason he has not is that the Prime Minister is afraid of a by-election in North Wales."

In the Commons, the Labour MP Mr William Hamilton suggested further scandals were about to break over multiple applications by Conservative MPs for British Gas shares.

"The same honourable members who engaged in malpractices on the purchase of British Telecom shares

were in the same business on British Gas shares", he said. Both Mr Best and Mr Eric Cockeram, Tory MP for Ludlow, have admitted making more than one British Telecom application, though Mr Cockeram said his second application was on behalf of his grandchild.

Mr Best said in an interview on BBC radio that his immediate resignation would cause a by-election within weeks of a general election and that he did not want to inflict two elections on the people of Anglesey within a short time.

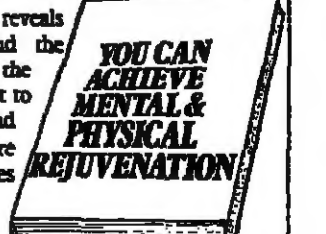
He also wanted to finish cases he was pursuing on behalf of constituents.

Mr Gareth Wardell, Labour MP for Gower, has admitted misusing pre-paid House of Commons envelopes to send leaflets to his constituents, and agreed to refund the postage costs.

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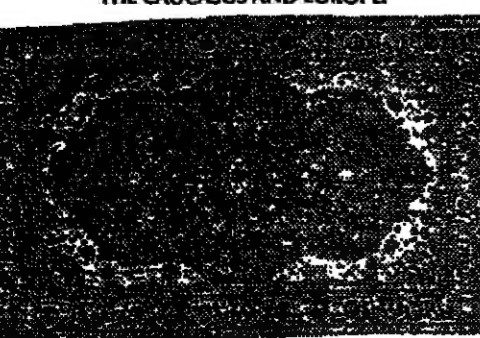
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Why King's favourites escape taxes

By Alan Hamilton

County historians in the West Midlands went burrowing in their archives yesterday to discover why the village of Knighton in Staffordshire should have got away without paying rates for 327 years.

The anomaly came to light this week when Stafford Borough Council, the village's rating authority, discussed whether Knighton might lose its unique privilege were the Government to replace the present rating system with a poll tax. They decided they had no idea, if asked officials

to look into the historical quirk.

The reason why the 31 houses, the Haberdashers' Arms public house, and a Cadbury's chocolate factory should enjoy freedom from all but water rates has been the subject of much local speculation, and probably invention.

A favourite Knighton theory is that, while journeying through Staffordshire, the newly restored King Charles II found himself short of cash until a village resident stepped in with a timely loan.

According to Mr George

Baugh, editor of the Victoria County Histories volume for Shropshire, the truth is slightly different.

In 1656 Mr William Adams, a London haberdasher and native of Knighton, conveyed his lands in the village to the Haberdashers' Company for the endowment of a school named after him just across the county boundary in Newport, Shropshire. The Adams School still exists.

Charles had reason to be grateful to that area of Staffordshire: thanks to the loyalty of local residents he

had several times escaped from his pursuers.

"But it is not known precisely what debt the King was repaying when he assented to the Act freeing William Adams' lands from all taxes but perpetuity", Mr Baugh said.

The Stafford councillors who discussed Knighton this week guessed that, under a poll tax as proposed by the Government, domestic non-ratepayers of Knighton would probably have to pay up at last, but that the chocolate factory and the public house would remain exempt.

Controllers report major breakdowns at air traffic centre

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

An alarming picture of low morale, inadequate equipment and a stressful workload has been painted by air traffic controllers working at the main control centre at West Drayton, near Heathrow Airport.

The centre handles all traffic, both civil and military, flying into, out of and through UK airspace over the whole of England and Wales and the surrounding seas, while control towers at airports deal only with local traffic.

The controllers, who are opposing proposals put by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to reduce the number of staff, recently persuaded the Institute of Aviation Medicine at Farnborough, Hampshire, to allow them to write notes about their problems in a confidential reporting system known as Chirp. It is, ironically, funded by the CAA and was set up to allow pilots to "let off steam".

About 10 controllers, writing anonymously, used the system to report claims that

their management did not take any notice of them, that the computer often broke down and that they were under stress from the increasing number of flights using British airspace.

One such note was included in the medical institute's report, circulated to airlines and others directly involved in aviation safety.

The anonymous controller said that the main computer which controls civil aircraft broke down two or three times a month; that the maps and manuals they used were out of date and that equipment could not be trusted.

The institute emphasized it was not involved in deciding whether the criticisms were justified but said the note was "representative".

The CAA denied last night that there was any trouble with the computer, an IBM 9020D, which was in wide use in the United States.

However, it said that, although the system itself was

reliable, there were problems with the main power supply and the software, which had led to two breakdowns within the last few months and which had meant that manual methods of controlling the flow of traffic had to be used.

"This may be significant in terms of delay but not of safety", the CAA said.

It also denied that maps and documents were out of date and said that problems with closed circuit systems would be solved later this year when new equipment was installed.

A worrying aspect of the reports from the controllers is that relating to morale. If the claims they make are correct then there is a genuine problem at West Drayton.

"Alarmist" figures for air misses are greatly exaggerated — there were only 12 risk-bearing near-miss incidents involving commercial aircraft in 1985 compared with 35 in 1976 — but any psychological disturbance among controllers could be even more dangerous than failure of equipment.

Missile just misses walkers

By Our Air Correspondent

A couple out for a stroll in their garden were a few feet away from becoming the first casualties from parts falling from aircraft.

Mr Roger Harris, aged 48, a Civil Servant, and his wife Eileen were walking their four dogs when a dummy Side-winder missile filled with concrete crashed through a tree and broke into four sections before burying itself in their lawn in the village of Lapford, Devon.

It had fallen from an RAF

Hawk jet which was returning from an exercise to its base at Chivenor, about 25 miles away.

In the last three years there have been 55 reported cases of parts falling from aircraft. They range from small nuts and bolts to an 8ft long by 1ft wide leading edge flap which fell from a Boeing 747 airliner in September 1985.

There have been no fatal accidents as a result of the incidents, and only one small

injury reported in the last 10 years.

But the number of incidents is worrying airlines and safety authorities.

The parts often fall from a great height and include inspection hatches, engine cowings, tow bars and, on one occasion, a parking chock which smashed through the roof of the New Covent Garden market at Nine Elms, south London.

The RAF is investigating the latest incident.



A view down the Long Room at Lord's as potential buyers look at lots in next week's auction of cricket memorabilia. Mrs Victoria Wolcott, of Christie's, holds lot 665, an eighteenth century oak bat (Photographs by Graham Wood).

MCC turns out basement for auction

By Gavin Bell

Viewing began in the Long Room at Lord's in London yesterday for an auction of cricketing memorabilia from its basement.

Many of the items feature the patriarchal figure of W.G. Grace, who notched up 126 centuries and took 2,876 wickets.

Other articles of interest to collectors include a handbill for a match at Kennington Oval in 1852, starring "Eleven Greenwich Pensioners with One Arm against Eleven Greenwich Pensioners with One Leg".

There is also a printed letter from the MCC to G.H.M. Cartwright, Esq, commemorating his century against Aldershot Command in 1913, and inviting him "to purchase a bat and debit the MCC with a sum not exceeding one guinea".

Admirers of Sir Pelham Warner, the former England



Handbill for a novelty cricket match, estimated at £50.

captain and MCC president, may acquire a pair of cream wool tennis shorts bearing his name, valued at £80-£120.

The MCC hopes to realize a sum of six figures from the



Coloured albumen print of W.G. Grace, also for auction.

sale of more than 1,000 items from its reserve collection, to restore and expand its main displays.

However, the Museums Association has accused the

MCC of unfair play, saying the auction next Monday contravenes its code of practice under which objects should be offered first to other museums.

Mr Ian Robertson, president of the Museums Association, said: "Those people who have given prized objects to the MCC's museum over the years did so because they wanted them preserved."

Mr Rory Quinn, chairman of the regional museums service, added: "This is a museum collection, and as such is considered by the public to be held in trust for cricket enthusiasts now and forever."

In a joint statement, they said the sale seriously jeopardized future public funding for the museum.

Barring for the club, Mr Michael Sissons defended the decision by saying it was merely selling off "an attractive rag-bag of oddments from the basement".

Portfolio-Gold Winner's family in conference

A family conference is being planned by the winner of yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000.

Mr Derek Ryde, aged 75, of Church Hill, Newhaven, East Sussex, the sole winner yesterday, said it was a marvellous surprise. But he was not taking any decisions on how to spend the money until he had consulted his three daughters.

Dr Jagdish Sharma, aged 48, of Eive Drive, Airdrie, Strathclyde, was the sole winner of Wednesday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000, which was delayed for a day because of printing problems. Dr Sharma said he would spend it on a holiday to India.

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Thriller gave the clue to girl's illness

An Agatha Christie thriller helped a nurse to identify a child's illness, according to a report in *The Lancet* today (Our Science Correspondent writes).

The nurse was reading *A Pale Horse*, which includes a description of a poison, when a girl aged 21 months was admitted to a London hospital.

Doctors suspected poisoning, but failed to find the cause, until the nurse suggested that the child might have been poisoned by thallium, the substance mentioned in the book.

15% rise in house prices

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

House prices showed a sharp increase last month and are likely to rise by 14-15 per cent this year, the Halifax Building Society forecast in a survey published yesterday.

The Halifax house price index shows that prices rose by 15.2 per cent in the year to March, compared with 14.9 per cent for the year to February.

Over the three months to the end of March prices rose by 3.4 per cent, compared with 2.7 per cent for the three months to February.

The strengthening of house price inflation is reflected largely in the prices of second-hand properties, which went up on an annual basis by 15.7 per cent last month.

The annual rise in new house prices declined from 14 per cent to 12.4 per cent between February and March.

The average price of all houses now stands at £44,972, with new houses at £53,282.

In Greater London prices remain buoyant, showing an increase of 26.1 per cent in the year to March, and of 24.1 per cent in the south-east.

Although house price inflation fell back slightly in the West Midlands, the north-west and Northern Ireland over the past year, it accelerated to reach over 10 per cent in Yorkshire and Humberside, over 13 per cent in the East Midlands, 16 per cent in the south-west and almost 20 per cent in East Anglia.

The society believes that prices are essentially being pushed up by demand rising faster than supply, and argues that shortage of land available for housebuilding is a serious problem.

Soap 'remedy' for rabies

A doctor told an inquest yesterday that washing an animal bite with lots of soapy water seemed to be "100 per cent effective" against rabies.

Dr Durinder Bakshi, Birmingham's environmental officer, was speaking after a verdict of misadventure was recorded on Indepall Hayre, aged eight, from Handsworth, who caught rabies from a dog bite in India.

Nurses seek right to wear trousers

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Women nurses want the option to wear trousers at work in order to save them from back pain and protect their modesty.

Delegates at the Royal College of Nursing congress in Glasgow yesterday gave overwhelming support to a resolution calling for a trouser-style suit to become an optional part of nurses' dress "to replace the present archaic, inappropriate and restrictive uniform".

Mr Peter O'Malley, of the Society of Occupational Health Nursing, said that constraints put on nurses by the national uniform when lifting patients had been identified as a major contributory factor in back pain.

"Each year 40,000 nurses are absent for one day or more because of back pain and more than 764,000 days are lost at a cost to the National Health Service of £15 million," Mr O'Malley said. About 4,000 nurses left the NHS each year as a result of back pain.

Research in 1985 had shown that the national uniform, a short-sleeved blue and white check dress with a tight skirt, restricted hip flexion by 26 per cent, leading to the adoption of potentially hazardous positions.

Tube may be extended as ticket sales boom

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

The London Underground is examining options, potentially costing hundreds of millions of pounds, for extending its network and improving stations.

These could include extensions to the Jubilee, Metropolitan, Bakerloo and East London lines, with new stations at Lewisham, Peckham and Camberwell, and improvements to stations at Farringdon, The Angel, Victoria, Liverpool Street and King's Cross.

London Underground emphasized that the examination of these projects was at an early stage. However, it is understood that draft proposals will be sent before long to Dr Tony Ridley, chairman of London Underground, and Mr David Mitchell, Minister of State for Public Transport. London Underground said:

"We are in the unusual position of having to cope with the problems brought about by the success of Travelcards, station modernization and more efficient services."

It had increased passenger loads by nearly 50 per cent in three years and was carrying a record 762 million passengers a year.

Hidden video cameras are to be used on London buses in new efforts to catch attackers and vandals.

The pilot scheme was launched yesterday by London Buses Limited, which called for back-up from the courts with tougher penalties for such offences.

Last year there were 1,109 reported assaults on bus crews, a 10 per cent drop on the 1985 figure of 1,358. There were 39 successful prosecutions against attackers.

Armed thug takes secret to prison

Phillip Callaghan, an unemployed labourer, was jailed for eight years yesterday, taking with him the secret of a firearms incident in Mayfair 10 months ago.

The incident led to the disappearance of Mr Jonathan Denby, a City solicitor who was once a private secretary to Mr Enoch Powell, Ulster Unionist MP for South Down.

Mr Denby, who was reported to have been desperate for £500,000 after judgements against him in a bribery case and the dissolution of his practice, is rumoured to have become involved in an operation

to supply arms to "loyalist" extremists in Northern Ireland.

Mr Denby, in the company of Callaghan and another gunman, had been "tailing" a former business client.

But in the trial which ended at the Central Criminal Court yesterday Callaghan chose to say nothing.

The court was told that Callaghan's fingerprints had been found on a record cover in Mr Denby's house in Islington, north London.

Callaghan, aged 29, of Esk House, British Street, Bow,

east London, was sentenced to eight years on each of three charges of threatening to kill, robbery and possessing a firearm. The sentences are to run concurrently.

Callaghan angrily left the dock and was taken down to the cells after the first guilty verdict was given.

He missed the reading of his previous convictions, in which it was revealed he had served three years for possession of sawn-off shotguns. Judge Gerber described him as "a fired thug waiting to ambush somebody."

"Doctors spent fourteen years developing this diet."

It changed my life in as many days.



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"I lost 1 stone 10 lbs during that time. Over those 6 weeks I never felt better and to see the rapid weight loss was a great inspiration. Doctors developed the Cambridge Diet over a period of 14 years. It changed my life in as many days."

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April 9 1987

Dispute over C of E bishops

The controversy over the appointment of a successor to Dr Hugh Montefiore as Bishop of Birmingham spilled over into the Commons during Prime Minister's questions.

Mr Andrew Henter (Basingstoke, C) asked Mrs Thatcher to comment on the process whereby Church of England bishops were appointed, on her role in the process and on the criteria that influenced her judgement.

Mrs Thatcher: Before my time, and by agreement with leaders of the Opposition and the other main parties, a procedure was set up. It has been honoured scrupulously since 1979 as I am sure it was honoured before then.

[Downing Street had announced the appointment of the Bishop of Kensington, the Right Rev Mark Santer, rather than that of the Bishop of Stepney, the Right Rev James Thompson, who was expected by some to be appointed.]

MPs returned to the subject when they questioned the Leader of the House about business when they return from the Easter recess on Wednesday April 22.

Mr Neil Kinnock said that the House would want a much fuller explanation of the criteria the Prime Minister used in the appointment of the bishop.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, said that the Prime Minister had prayed in aid the fact that the arrangements for appointments had been made with the leaders of Opposition parties. Those leaders, he said, were not satisfied with the way those arrangements were working out.

Mr Michael Foot (Blenauwgwent, Lab) suggested that there should be what one might call a balanced ticket — a good Christian to go along with every Tory appointment.

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, said that this was one of the more thoughtful contributions which had been made all the afternoon.

Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing North, C) said that he would want to support the appointment of people such as the Bishop of Kensington who put theology and pastoral care before politics.

Mr Peter Bravely (Leicester East, C) said that the Crown Appointments Commission drew up a list of two names, which were presented to the Prime Minister who chose one. "We would like a debate so we can widen the candidates coming forward to be considered as bishops."



Mr Jerry Wiggin (left) and Mr Paddy Ashdown watch Sir George Younger cut the tape.

Orders 'will sustain the helicopter industry'

The package of orders he had announced for helicopters would sustain a British industry capable of meeting the demanding requirements of the Services for helicopters into the 1990s and beyond, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, said.

He said that a key task was to support the Army in Germany, for which, in addition to the Lynx of the Army Air Corps, Chinook and Puma helicopters were currently assigned. There was also a wide range of other worldwide deployments.

Mr Younger said in his statement: Until 1985, it was envisaged that both RAF Puma and Wessex support helicopters would be replaced one-for-one by helicopters of a similar size. This approach, however, came increasingly into question as a result of trials conducted by 6 Airborne Brigade that suggested a requirement for an

increased number of larger helicopters. A comprehensive review of the requirement for support helicopters in all roles well into the next century was therefore set in hand.

This work showed the need for additional large helicopters in the central region, capable of lifting a platoon, that is about thirty men and their equipment, or a substantial logistic load. These large helicopters, together with some Lynx battle-field helicopters, would enable the Army to provide an air-mobile capability and thereby enhance our defence contribution in Germany.

The choice for the large helicopter lies between additional Chinook, which are already in service in Germany, or the introduction of a utility version of the Anglo-Italian EH101 helicopter, which is due to enter service in the naval version in the early 1990s.

The Government has decided that the right choice is to introduce the utility EH101 to meet this requirement. This choice will build on the investment we have already made in the naval version.

We have at the same time reviewed the case for continued British participation in the NH90 collaborative helicopter project beyond the study phase. The NH90 is a smaller helicopter than the EH101 and will be available later. With the decision we have now reached on the future composition of our support helicopter force, we no longer have any early requirement for a helicopter in the NH90 class, nor is their money to fund both participation in the NH90 development and development programme — which is due to begin soon — and an early purchase of other helicopters. We are therefore informing our partners that we do not intend to proceed to

the next stage of the NH90 project.

In reaching a decision on the choice between alternative support helicopters and particularly on the timing of orders, I have had much in mind the workload at Westland Helicopters until work builds up on the naval version of the EH101.

Subject to satisfactory resolution of the contractual and other issues with the companies concerned and our Italian partners, we intend to place an order for an initial batch of 25 utility EH101 for delivery in the early 1990s. I also intend — subject to satisfactory contractual negotiations — to order a further 16 Lynx helicopters for the support of airborne operations.

The cost of these orders — which have a total value well in excess of £300 million — will be contained within the overall public expenditure planning totals.

Decision a blow to Services, says Labour

WESTLAND

Mr Younger's statement on Service helicopters would come as a blow to Britain's armed forces and more so to the helicopter business of Westland and those who worked there, Mr Dennis Davies, chief Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament, said.

The armed forces had fewer helicopters than 10 years ago and the Americans, and more important, the Russians, were building up.

This order would not make up for deficiencies, especially for helicopters on the battle front, would not safeguard the future of the industry and would not preserve jobs.

At least 2,000 jobs in Westland would be lost, apart from indirect jobs, and one factory was likely to close.

He asked when Westland would receive a bankable contract under these arrangements. He asked if the £300 million mentioned would come out of the existing defence budget totals and, if that was the case, where were the cuts going to be found?

Mr Younger said that he was very surprised at Mr Davies' response. If this announcement would be a blow to the company, would not safeguard the industry and would be a disaster, then he could not imagine what an announcement not to order helicopters would have meant.

It was a large order and would be extremely helpful to the company, which was issuing a statement welcoming these orders.

He hoped that the contract would be concluded after appropriate negotiations had taken place and that might be some time because it always took some time to do that.

The cost of these orders would come from within the defence budget except that for the 16 Lynx helicopters there would be an addition to the budget. He could not tell how much would fall this year, but not very much.

Mr Jerry Wiggin (Weston-super-Mare, C) said that, having pressed so hard for so long for the orders, he welcomed them, but it was outrageous that at the same time Westland should announce the closure of the factory at Weston-super-Mare.

Was the Secretary of State satisfied that in these circumstances there would be sufficient Ministry of Defence facilities to support Westland helicopters?

Mr Younger said that he appreciated the extremely sad effect the news would have on the

people of Weston-super-Mare. It was an unhappy situation. Restructuring would safeguard Westland's ability to service and support the helicopters in service with the armed forces.

The orders would enable the company as a whole to look to future restructuring to produce a thoroughly sound and effective company in the light of their large order book now.

The difficulties which would undoubtedly follow in some parts of the company would be very much in the minds of the Government and if it could help it would.

Mr Paddy Ashdown (Yeovil, L) said the closure would be bitter news for the Westland workforce who would have to pay with their jobs for the mismanagement of the sad a sorry affair.

Sikorsky had absolutely nothing to do with it. Had the advice of Mr Heseltine been followed, the company would have been in an immeasurably worse situation than it was today.

The British Army had asked for more helicopters than had been ordered so that they could fulfil their tactical role in Europe. The Government's short-term vision would damage the country's long-term perception.

Mr Younger said that he could not agree. While it must be unhappy news for those who might lose their jobs, it would be good news for the company and those working for it, as providing a firm base to plan for the future.

There would be a large number of Mr Ashdown's constituents whose jobs would be secured as a result of the announcement.

It was right to say that who owned Westland had nothing to do with the NH90 decision. Careful studies indicated that more helicopters of this particular size were not required.

It did not make sense to spend the limited defence funds on a project when the Government did not intend to order any more of the product.

Sir Anthony Beck (Colchester North, C) said the announcement showed the Government's conviction in the future of the helicopter industry in this country. Did it have export potential?

Mr Younger said that it was the type of order the company had been calling for in order to be able to set about its restructuring programme.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

The Alliance has to prepare for the general election in a different way from the other parties. Both the Conservatives and Labour publish a manifesto to state what they would do if they win a majority and have the power to put all their policies into practice.

The Alliance goes through the same motions. Earlier this week it produced its detailed proposals for health and education. Yesterday Mr Alan Beith, who is coordinating the production of its manifesto, or programme for government as it is optimistically termed, appeared at the Alliance planning group meeting to discuss what it should contain.

But nearly everybody knows that this is largely a charade. The Alliance's chances of forming a government on its own are remote. It will have an opportunity of putting all its ideas into practice. The realistic prospect that it does have, however, is of holding the balance of power in a hung Parliament.

Alliance faces a dilemma

So the Alliance preparations that may really matter are for its bargaining terms if it is in a position to negotiate. Here it faces a dilemma. It will offer hostages to criticism during the campaign, and may restrict its freedom of manoeuvre after the election, if it produces a precise list of terms that would have to be satisfied.

The simple phrase "a hung Parliament" covers a range of different outcomes. The bargaining position of the Alliance would vary according to how many seats it had with which to hold the balance, and according to whether the Conservatives or Labour had most seats.

Yet the Alliance would run risks externally and internally if it did nothing to prepare the ground for the possibility of such negotiations. The electorate might feel that whereas the other parties were offering a specific programme, the Alliance was simply asking to be given a free hand in the only circumstances where it would have a reasonable chance of lasting power.

The other danger is that many Liberals and Social Democrats might themselves not be willing to go along with any deal that their leaders might be able to put together. The Liberal wrath when Mr Jeremy Thorpe went to talk to Mr Heath in Downing Street immediately after the February 1974 election should be a warning of what could happen.

So the Alliance joint strategy committee decided to let it be known after their meeting on Tuesday that they were thinking about these matters. The Liberals have given the task of keeping in touch with party opinion to their president, president-elect, chairman and secretary-general. The Social Democrats will decide before the end of the month whether to set up a similar procedure.

Spending on social services

Much would obviously depend on how many MPs the Alliance had in a hung Parliament. The more of them there were, the less important would other forms of consultation be.

But there are a few highly sensitive points on which the leaders would presumably want to know, by means of a very low-key, informal process of testing opinion, just how far they could go without provoking an explosion.

It has been made clear enough that in any deal with the Conservatives the Alliance would want more to be done to create jobs and more expenditure on the social services. In bargaining with Labour changes would be required in the party's non-nuclear defence policy. A minimum term would be regarded as necessary for an agreement with either party.

But those are really the easy questions. Would the Alliance be prepared to treat with Mrs Thatcher? How far would it insist upon going towards its goal of proportional representation? If it entered a coalition, would it be enough to have just the two Davids in the Cabinet?

It is on such issues as these that a successful negotiation might hang, and they are just the ones on which party feeling could be misjudged in what would probably be a frenetic atmosphere.

Shares statement refused by Biffen

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab), during questions on forthcoming business, asked for a statement about the purchase of British Gas shares. He said that MPs engaged in multiple applications for British Telecom shares were in the same business in British Gas shares.

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, said that the matter was the subject of investigation by auditors. The investigations were continuing and it would be wiser to wait until they were finished. Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) asked if Mr Biffen would reconsider what he had said to Mr Hamilton after he had read the *Daily Mirror* tomorrow. According to all reports, the newspaper had done a trawl of British Gas applications and there were going to be further revelations of multiple applications from Tory MPs.

Mr Biffen: He is inviting me to set aside the professional work of the accountants examining British Gas applications for the journalistic achievements of the *Daily Mirror*. If he were on the front bench and had to take responsibility, he would decide that *Touché Ross* was the safer haven.

Prescriptions pledge

Prescription charges would be much reduced once a Labour government regained office, and they would be phased out altogether over the period of one Parliament, Mr Frank Dobson, chief Opposition spokesman on health, said during a debate late on Wednesday in the Commons.

He was moving a motion to amend the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Amendment Regulations 1987.

Mr Tony Newton, Minister for Health, said that three-quarters of the people paid nothing for prescriptions; only those who could afford it were asked to contribute. That raised £150 million a year, which made a useful contribution to health service expenditure.

The Labour Party's proposed abolition of all prescription charges and putting the cost on to income tax would mean that pensioners, at present paying nothing for their prescriptions, would be asked to pay through income tax. The prayer was rejected by 142 votes to 67 — Government majority, 75.

Tory record 'is good'

The Government's record on looking after the elderly had been second to none, the Prime Minister said during question time.

Mr David Marshall (Glasgow, Shettleston, Lab) had asked when the Government would start to treat pensioners as decent, dignified human beings and when Mrs Thatcher would stop the nonsense of saying that pensioners were better off when it was just not true.

Mrs Thatcher replied that that if Opposition proposals were followed, the working population would have to pay much more through national insurance.

Cost puzzle on longbows

Asked in a written question about the number of crossbows and longbows now in use by the armed forces and their cost, Lord Trefgarne, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, said that neither of these weapons were part of the present armory.

"The longbow ceased to be standard equipment for the armed forces during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and our information on costs is therefore a little out of date."

Information available to us suggests a price of £6.84 (33p) for a first class English-made bow of best foreign yew at 1566 economic conditions.

Study scheme for 'Restart' jobless

Replying to a written question by Lord Simon of Glaisdale (Ind) about the number of men and women interviewed on the Restart Programme who had difficulty reading and/or writing English, Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Employment, said that he had asked the Manpower Services Commission to investigate the extent of the problems of literacy and numeracy among the long-term unemployed.

The commission's conclusion was that about 25 per cent in this category had such difficulties that could affect their opportunities of securing employment. These serious problems were being tackled through the adult training programmes and by the work of local education authorities. However, he had asked the commission to consider whether it could develop even more effective measures to improve these essential, basic skills.

Dead 'should be buried in peace'

N IRELAND

The dead in Northern Ireland should be buried in peace and dignity and without paramilitary displays, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during question time in the Commons.

He was replying to Mr Dennis Canavan (Falkirk, West, Lab), who asked how the heavy and provocative police presence at the recent funeral ceremonies could be justified.

Whatever organization it was believed they were members of during their lifetime, would it not be in the best interests of all concerned to let people bury their dead in peace?

Mr King: It is a matter that has given over the years enormous offence to see displays of deliberately provocative demonstrations.

I would draw my memory to the events in Londonderry some two weeks ago when, contrary to the wishes of the family itself and in flagrant breach of the standards and laws of the Church, two gunmen appeared with guns out of the church and fired a volley over the coffin.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary are faced with a very difficult dilemma in that they have the responsibility to uphold the law.

Earlier, Mr King told MPs that he had met the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr

Lenihan, on Monday. They had an informal discussion on a wide range of matters.

"In addition, yesterday, under the auspices of the inter-Parliamentary Union, I had a valuable discussion with a distinguished delegation of members of the Dail."

Sir John Farr (Harborough, C) asked if he had any indication from the new Government of the Irish Republic of the way it intended to implement the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Mr King said that he had received very full assurances (on the agreement).

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C) asked if, during his recent meetings, he had expressed satisfaction at the extent to which the Anglo-Irish agreement had been able to bring about peace, stability and reconciliation in the province.

If it should become clear to him that the agreement could not achieve those objectives, would he propose some change?

Mr King said that he had never maintained that the agreement could suddenly transform the attitudes and prejudices that went back over centuries.

Mr Peter Bravely (Leicester East, C) asked about what he called the deeply offensive misuse of the Irish tricolour, especially at IRA funerals.

Mr King replied that it was particularly the paramilitary displays that gave the greatest offence.

Sheep for anthrax island

A flock of sheep is to be herded on Gruinard Island, off the west coast of Scotland, this summer by a local farmer, to demonstrate that the island, deliberately infected with anthrax during the Second World War, is now safe for occupation.

Mr Archie Hamilton, Under-Secretary of Defence for Procurement, said in a written reply that the independent advisory group which had been reviewing the evidence on the efficacy of the decontamination treatment of Gruinard had reported that it had worked well.

Parliament after Easter

The main business in the House of Commons when MPs return from their Easter recess on April 22 will be:

April 22: Finance Bill, second reading.

April 23: Debate on agriculture and on farm price proposals.

April 24: Private members' Bills, Protection of Animals (Regulation) Bill, Motor Cycle Noise Bill, Crown Proceedings (Amended) Bill, and Access to Personal Files Bill, report stages.

The House of Lords does not resume until April 27.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Easter adjournment debates.

Northern Ireland Bill debate

Anti-terror law may get annual check

The following report of the Commons debate on the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill appeared in later editions of this newspaper yesterday.

The Government is considering an independent annual review of the working of its emergency legislation in Northern Ireland, Mr Nicholas Scott, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, told the Commons. He was moving the third reading of the Bill.

He said that the proposal under consideration was to find an independent person of standing to conduct a review and prepare a report for Parliament.

He said that there would also be a code of practice in relation to the powers available to the security forces.

That would contribute to a greater understanding between them and the public and it would be in the interests of the public to have a clear statement of the extent of the powers of the security forces and how they should be operated.

Mr Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, welcomed both suggestions.

Earlier, a new clause to the Bill, designed to eliminate delays between an accused person's first remand for a scheduled offence and the trial, was carried on report stage by 194 votes to 28 — Government majority, 166.

Mr Scott said that it was only an enabling power and it was likely to be some time before time limits were actually introduced.

The Government had decided to include the power at this stage because another opportunity might not arise for five years when the legislation would again be considered.

The new clause would enable the Secretary of State to set a limit on the period a person might be remanded before trial, and a breach would result in the accused's being released on bail.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, OUP) said that it was disappointing that the new clause gave only enabling powers rather than introducing the concept of time limits immediately.

Mr Senator Mallon (Newry and Armagh, SDLP) said that there had been instances of people being on remand for three years before trial, which was the

equivalent of a six-year prison sentence. It would have been better to have introduced a time limit in the Bill.

Mr Archer said that the Opposition would be pressing the minister to use some of the powers that were in the new clause so that it would not be seen as representing some advance in Government thinking.

Mr Scott said that it was much too early to give any precise indication of what time limits might eventually be set.

The latest figures available showed that the average waiting time for scheduled cases between remand and commitment was 33 weeks and the average time between commitment and trial was 27 weeks.

"We are talking about 60 weeks between remand and the case coming to trial. The present situation is, to a considerable degree, unsatisfactory."

As a result of the pressure being kept up to reduce the delay, the next 12 months would show a big reduction of that figure. If they were to set firm times for the various stages, they would find themselves overtaken

by the improvements that were likely to take place.

"We do not want people who are eventually found not guilty by the courts to be detained for lengthy periods on remand."

It would be right in due course to introduce these regulations, Mr Archer moved a new clause setting out when it would not be reasonable for members of the security forces in Northern Ireland to use lethal force.

It stated that lethal force would not be reasonable unless the person using it apprehended immediate death or serious injury to himself or another person and the use of that force was necessary to prevent the death or injury.

"We do not know what instructions are made to members of the armed forces. The Ministry of Defence declines to publish the instructions of the famous yellow card."

Mr Nicholas Scott said that members of the security forces exercising emergency powers should be bound by the normal rule of law on the use of force. The new clause would apply one rule of law to use of emergency

powers and another to ordinary powers.

The new clause was rejected by 185 votes to 82 — Government majority, 103.

Mr Archer moved a new clause removing the power of the Secretary of State to intern people without trial.

The provision had not been used since 1976, he said, and no government would attempt to justify its use. It was not even in force. At issue was the power of the Secretary of State to bring it into force.

It was a distortion of the normal legal system and should be repealed.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said the question was whether the power should remain on the statute book so that it could be used in particular circumstances.

"We have a power but there is no proposal to introduce it. Detention is phased out in fact but kept available in law. That is the reality of the situation."

The new clause was rejected by 168 votes to 80 — Government majority, 88.

'Demoralized' prosecution lawyers to get pay bonus

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Pay bonuses are to be given to lawyers working in the Crown Prosecution Service and other government departments, in London in an attempt to remedy the problem of staff shortages. Sir Thomas Hetherington, the Director of Public Prosecutions, said yesterday.

A restructuring of the way the service is organized is also underway, involving the creation of four posts of regional field manager to "improve morale on the ground", he said.

"Instead of there just being a few of us at headquarters, defining policy and putting out edicts, there will be a board of management, to meet regularly. It will have before it input from the local areas about their problems and give greater local involvement in policy decisions."

The new strategy for the prosecution service and bonus payments from £1,000 to £2,000 for its 200 London lawyers and others in government departments come at a time when morale is said to be

low and large numbers are thinking of leaving.

A survey by the prosecution lawyers' union, the Association of First Division Civil Servants, this week claimed that three-quarters of junior and middle-rank prosecutors felt morale was low; had no confidence in senior management and, in 60 per cent of cases, were considering other jobs.

But yesterday, in a rare interview on the first anniversary of the start of the Crown Prosecution Service, in April 1986, Sir Thomas dismissed the survey as "a lot of rubbish" which could have a harmful effect on staff and recruitment.

He said: "If you ask anyone if they are underpaid and overworked, you'll get the same response."

He contested the claim that morale was generally low, but said there were some prosecutors who felt hard done by and efforts were being made to sort out their grievances, including certain pay disparities.

About £500,000 had been set aside to try to solve the problems.

However, the service is still short of lawyers in some areas; chiefly London, but also in the West Midlands and on Merseyside. In inner London only 75 of the 152 posts for lawyers have been filled; and in outer London and Surrey, only 92 out of 168.

Apart from the cost of living in the capital, London had the biggest problems because it had to recruit the largest number of lawyers of any area to get the service underway.

But there is also a shortage of staff throughout the government legal service. Lawyers are leaving the Civil Service twice as fast as six years ago, according to this week's edition of the *Lawyer* magazine.

In 1981 the Civil Service was able to fill 95 per cent of its legal vacancies; now only 45 per cent are being filled, it says.

The new payments, from April 1, are of £1,000 for crown prosecutors; £1,500 for

senior crown prosecutors and £2,000 for assistant branch crown prosecutors.

The payments come on top of existing scales of £11,130 to £15,900 for crown prosecutors, £14,318 to £19,465 for senior crown prosecutors and £18,020 to £24,302 for assistant branch crown prosecutors. All ranks receive an additional £1,465 in London weighting.

Sir Thomas, who retires on September 30, said that problems of Saturday working, which almost led to a strike, and the secondment of lawyers from the regions, had largely been resolved.

A deal had been agreed for payments of £70 a session for Saturday working, and no one who did not want to work in London was being made to move.

The aim was to "improve efficiency and effectiveness and to get over to the public that the CPS is not just bad news... that we have something to contribute to the criminal justice system".

Unionists warned over street protests

By Richard Ford

As "loyalists" prepare for a day of street protests tomorrow, the Royal Ulster Constabulary issued a warning yesterday that the policing of such events diverts resources from the battle against terrorism.

Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable, says the community must consider the financial and human cost of the right to demonstrate in a province where there were 1,731 loyalist and 219 republican parades last year.

His remarks are certain to anger Unionist politicians who will lead protests tomorrow against new public order legislation giving greater powers to the police to control demonstrations and which Unionists allege have been introduced as the best of the government in Dublin.

In his annual report, Sir John says the public order situation was dominated by loyalist frustration and opposition to the Anglo-Irish agreement, requiring more police to maintain stability.

He said his officers had been shot at by terrorists and faced "500 cowardly and despicable" incidents of intimidation from extreme loyalists, which forced 120 police families from their homes.

Turning to terrorism, Sir John said detailed planning and consultation had occurred between the RUC and Garda in an effort to improve cross-border security.

His report shows an increase in terrorist activity with deaths rising from 54 in 1985

to 61 last year, shootings from 155 to 392, and bombings from 251 to 275.

But there was also an increase in people charged with terrorist crimes, with figures rising from 522 to 655.

Although the figures show that crime, including terrorist crime, rose by 6 per cent from 64,584 to 68,255, the detection rate of 37 per cent was the highest since 1970.

In west Belfast, there was an improvement in the number of offences cleared up, from 1,457 to 2,629.



Mr Richard Dover and his wife Gwyneth jump for joy yesterday after winning £1,000 as the couple with the healthiest lifestyle.

Mrs Dover, aged 32, saved her husband's life by stopping him eating his favourite meal of fish and chips and changing his diet to vegetarian and wholemeal foods.

Mr Dover, aged 53, had a heart condition caused by years of fatty foods. He had three heart attacks before he was 35 and had a triple bypass operation in 1978.

Mr Dover said of his changed diet: "Within a year I was feeling better. I am in perfect health now. Gwyneth saved my life."

The couple are converting their home in Milton Lane, Lotherdale, North Yorkshire, into a health food guest house.

Yesterday's award was presented by *Here's Health* magazine. Many meals in Britain's restaurants should carry health warnings, according to an *Egon Ronay* guide to healthy eating out, published yesterday. (Photograph: Peter Trievnor)

Telephone scramble for degree courses

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

Students face "a pantomime and a lottery" in the summer scramble for university and polytechnic places that comes after the announcement of A level results, according to the author of an annual guide to degree course offers published yesterday.

The "clearing house" system, whereby students who have been rejected by their first-choice colleges or universities are matched with vacancies elsewhere, had collapsed, Mr Brian Heap said.

Institutions became increasingly competitive in grabbing the better candidates by telephone and were being rather naughty, Mr Heap said.

"Instead of picking the next candidate on the list to fill a vacancy they are jumping the gun by taking applications by telephone."

From the students' point of view, the system means an increasingly desperate situation in which 100,000 hopeful applicants call round the 80 universities and polytechnics looking for a place.

One of Mr Heap's pupils at Hutton Grammar School in Preston, Lancashire, ran up a telephone bill of £120 in a week.

Only Exeter University does the "decent thing" by refusing to take telephone applications for a fortnight, Mr Heap said.

Last year, Trent Polytechnic indicated that there were vacancies in a subject that was in reality full, while Oxford Polytechnic did not publish any of its vacancies.

Degree Course Offers (Careers Consultants, 12/14 Richmond Rise, Richmond upon Thames; £9.95, post and packing £1.10).

TV station looks to satellite

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

Thames Television is preparing to ask the Independent Broadcasting Authority for permission to launch a two-channel direct broadcasting by satellite service next year.

It also wants to increase its investment in a venture in Luxembourg that will provide the satellite.

Thames intends to offer one channel for children's programmes and another, funded by advertising, for general entertainment.

They would be broadcast on the 16-channel Astra satellite system in which Thames already holds a 5 per cent stake.

The English-language programming on Astra is expected to include a subscription film channel, offered by the Premiere consortium. That group is owned jointly by British Telecom, Mr Robert Maxwell, Mr Rupert Murdoch and a subsidiary of the Coca-Cola company.

It is thought that Thames will increase its stake in Astra to 10 per cent, for a total investment of about £7.5 million.

The decision of British Telecom to form a joint venture with Astra to market channels on the satellite is said to have reaffirmed Thames's confidence in the project.

The move into direct broadcast programme services is a further demonstration of the independent strategy Thames is pursuing.

Thames's entertainment channel will challenge the Super Channel general entertainment service, launched in January by the other ITV companies in partnership with Virgin Group.

At the same time, Thames's backing of the Astra venture is a challenge to the British Satellite Broadcasting consortium, which intends to launch a three-channel satellite in 1989.

Benefits fraud cost £250,000

Twenty eight people who admitted their part in one of Britain's biggest social security swindles received sentences ranging from community service orders to 30 months' jail yesterday.

Mr Richard Benson, for the prosecution, told Nottingham Crown Court that more than £250,000 was paid out to bogus claimants before the offences were uncovered.

The accused, 17 people from Derby, 10 from Nottingham and one from Leicester, aged between 20 and 52, were sentenced for 45 admitted offences of fraud and deception.

Mr Benson said most of the claims were made by people using fictitious identities. Landlords received payment for use of their addresses as "safe houses", where Department of Health and Social Security payments could be sent to bogus claimants.

The majority of the 22 men and six women defendants were of Irish origin. Many bought identities from people returning to the Republic of Ireland while others wrote to Ireland for documents to back up their fictitious claims.

Judge Hopkin said: "This is not the usual case where a person entitled to benefit gets more than they are entitled. This was a carefully calculated, worked out fraud."

CND plea on telephone tap

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is going to the Court of Appeal today with fresh evidence to try to overturn a High Court ruling that Government approval for a telephone tap on a CND officer was not unlawful.

CND has a new affidavit from Miss Cathy Massiter, a former M15 intelligence officer in charge of surveillance against the group.

Beef bargains around despite top cut prices

Falling beef prices at cattle markets over the last few months have discouraged farmers without bringing any noticeable benefit to shoppers.

Top side and silverside at around £2.16 a pound, boneless sirloin at £2.84 and rump steak at up to £3 a pound are strictly for special occasions, though there are nearly always special offers in supermarkets.

This week's offers include Presto frying steak at £1.99 a pound, Sainsbury's braising steak at £1.48 and Tesco boneless brisket at £1.39.

New Zealand lamb has a big price advantage over English at this time of year. Whole leg and loin chops at around £1.50 a pound and shoulder 84p (down to 59p in Tesco) are attractive buys.

Pork is as usual good value at around £1.05 for whole leg and £1.22 for boneless shoulders.

Large turkeys are as little as 49p a pound but as always you pay for what you get and cannot expect them to taste as

good as fresh birds. Presto also has grade A turkeys between 5 and 6lbs at £3.64 each.

Fruit from the southern hemisphere, including apples, plums and grapes, are becoming steadily more plentiful and are generally of excellent quality. Citrus fruit are also a reliable standby. Tesco has packs of five Jaffa oranges for 49p and grapefruit at 16p.

Presto has large oranges and Cyprus grapefruit at 18p each, but you are likely to find an equally good choice at your local greengrocer. There are also lots of good bananas and the best bargains are probably to be found in the street markets.

Supplies of homegrown winter vegetables are gradually coming to an end and have not been helped by the recent wet weather.

But avocados (down from 35p to 29p each in Marks & Spencer) are an excellent buy, and the first new season Dutch beef tomatoes are appearing at around £1 a pound.

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WORLD SUMMARY

Pope sees hope in material progress

Buenos Aires — The Pope ended a three-day tour of the Argentine provinces yesterday with the hope that economic progress will lead to a more profound human and Christian development (Eduardo Côté writes).

The Pope was speaking at a Mass in Corrientes, in north-east Argentina near Paraguay, before flying to Paraná and returning to Buenos Aires for the final weekend of his 13-day Latin American trip. He said he hoped the development of hydro-electric power in the area would be accompanied by a constant internal improvement that will lead to authentic human and Christian progress. Last night the Pope met representatives of the Jewish community.

Sold girl order

Hackensack, New Jersey (AP) — A girl, aged four, whose mother was killed in a car crash in 1984 and whose father allegedly sold her for \$100,000 (\$62,500) is to be placed in the temporary custody of her stepmother, an appeals court ruled on Wednesday. The child's uncle, Mr Gary Stern, of Sunrise, Florida, who had temporary custody of Rachel Rausser and is keeping her in defiance of a judge's order, could face criminal charges if the girl is not handed to her stepmother. After the decision, Mr Stern made public a psychological report saying that Rachel was emotionally disturbed from the incident and did not want to return to her stepmother.

US wants deserter

Canberra (AFP) — The US has re-applied for the extradition from Australia of a former US Marine who deserted while in Vietnam, an embassy spokesman said yesterday. He said that the US had already made a fresh request for the extradition of a Mr Beane, who was released yesterday by the Australian High Court. A spokeswoman for Mr Kim Beazley, the Defence Minister, said the request was being reviewed. The High Court ruled yesterday that the warrant on which Mr Beane was arrested last December, issued under legislation covering co-operation with visiting forces, was invalid because he had deserted in Vietnam and not Australia.

Beach town for sale

Dillon Beach, California (AP) — Looking for a special gift for the person who has everything? A cool \$4.9 million (£3.06 million) can buy this 100-year-old town, complete with general store and 2,000 ft of beachfront property. Dillon Beach, with a population of 300, is for sale and three cabins and a trailer park are part of the package. But despite its location on the waterfront about 40 miles north of San Francisco, only a few prospective buyers have expressed interest since it was put up for sale about 16 years ago.

It is a developer's gold mine, said Mr John Duran, a real estate agent, who says he is getting a good response from recent national advertisements and packages he has sent to 20 potential investors.

Lange cleared

Wellington (Reuters) — Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, has been cleared of blame for hitting a pedestrian while driving through Wellington last week. The Ministry of Transport said that Mr Lange, who holds a motor racing licence, was unable to avoid the pedestrian who suffered head and leg injuries. No action would be taken against either man.

Mr Lange, a former lay preacher who does not drink, said he had been driving to a petrol station to buy razor blades.

Maxwell's TV quest

Madrid — Coinciding with a visit here by Mr Robert Maxwell, the British publisher, Spain's Newspaper Proprietors' Association yesterday expressed its "profound disappointment" over the Socialist Government's limitations on the media's share in a proposed new commercial television channel (Richard Wigg writes).

Mr Maxwell, who is assessing the openings in the field of commercial television, was received by King Juan Carlos and Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister.

Beatle charges fail

New York (Reuters) — The New York State Supreme Court has dismissed six fraud charges against two Thorn-EMI record companies by the Beatles. George Harrison, Ringo Starr, Yoko Ono, right, and two Beatles companies alleged in December 1984 that Capitol Records and EMI Records had failed to pay total royalties over 18 years. Thorn says the court has thrown out six of the nine charges.



Nuclear Easter eggs

Hamburg (AFP) — Children in Hamburg's 189 orphanages will not eat their chocolate Easter eggs this year because they contain too much radioactivity from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, a state government spokesman said yesterday. The 20,000 eggs were made from milk from the Bavarian region, southern Germany, that was severely hit by fall-out from the Chernobyl nuclear explosion almost a year ago.

The authorities now have to decide whether the eggs will be destroyed or sent back to the manufacturers, who said the withdrawal was regrettable, but should not provoke panic.

Dubcek veterans proclaim faith in Gorbachov

By Mary Dejevsky

Awaiting Mr Mikhail Gorbachov when he arrived in Prague yesterday was a letter signed by four senior members of the Dubcek administration, topped when Soviet tanks entered Prague in August 1968.

The signatories include Professor Jiri Hajek, Mr Dubcek's Foreign Minister; Ms Ludmila Jankovcova, his Industry Minister; Dr Vladimir Kadlec, his Education

Minister; and Dr Jaroslav Sabata, the head of the South Moravian regional party committee. The text of the letter, handed in at the Soviet Embassy last Saturday, has now reached the West. After welcoming the Soviet leader, it says: "We have been following with great sympathy and interest the new revolutionary developments — the reconstruction of Soviet society — inaugurated under your leadership. This development has revived in us the hope that the

time of renewal has come for our society as well."

Describing themselves as people who "for decades worked with dedication for the fulfilment of the ideas of socialism", they expressed appreciation of the Soviet leader's call for "new thinking".

The letter continued: "Mankind needs to be given back its self-reliance, faith in its strength, space to breathe freely and air to breathe — that is, to us, socialist democracy."

You point out that there is no need to fear democracy. Whoever is afraid of it is afraid of the people — and there is no need to fear the people, they need to be understood."

The signatories expressed their faith in "reconstruction" — one of the key words of Mr Gorbachov's Soviet reform programme — and pledged to do all they could to involve others in that cause.

In a reference to 1968, they also spoke of the need to restore "the traditional friend-

ship between our two nations which was compromised by the manner in which the Soviet leadership of that period reacted to the process of revival of 1968". They went on: "We are ready to play an active part in the reconstruction of our society... and would be happy if your visit could help open the way towards such activity. We are convinced that this would result in strengthening trust."

They concluded their letter with the hope that the "hundreds of thousands of people

hitherto excluded from public activity" might be included in the reconstruction effort. "People in Czechoslovakia," they said, "want to overcome all the obstacles which hold back the creative forces."

Many of those who participated in the Prague Spring are still alive and could constitute an influential force for change. Their open welcome for Mr Gorbachov represents an implicit challenge to the leadership of President Husak, who has only belatedly supported the Soviet reform programme.

2 dead, 85 hurt in Rio train commuter riot

From Mac Margolis, Rio de Janeiro

A sudden work stoppage by train operators at the crowded central railway station here on Wednesday evening sparked off a bloody clash between thousands of angry stranded passengers and railway security guards that left two people dead and 85 wounded — at least 16 from gunshot wounds. Six of those wounded by gunfire were still being treated in a hospital in Rio de Janeiro yesterday.

Thirty were jailed in the wake of the disturbances that lasted into the early hours yesterday.

Military police and army troops, accompanied by tanks, began patrolling a number of suburban stations after the trouble broke out.

The state's Secretary of Transportation suspended train services for safety inspection and repairs.

The violence began shortly after 6pm on Wednesday, when railway workers voted a strike as a protest against the dilapidated state of coaches and rail facilities.

The sudden announcement during the rush hour left thousands stranded at the station, which is the main departure point for tens of thousands of commuters who live in Rio's populous poor suburbs.

In the ensuing confusion, some of the passengers clamoured for reimbursement for their rail tickets, while others

began a protest and advanced on the station headquarters. Guards armed with revolvers and shotguns then began to fire wildly upon the crowd, provoking a riot that turned the railway station into a battlefield for the next five hours.

The crowd responded by hurling stones at the guards, vandalising station property, and setting fire to wood and vehicles.

Senior José Carlos da Silva, aged 26, a baker, was killed when a guard allegedly fired his revolver from close range. Another man, who was not immediately identified, was also shot dead.

It took until past midnight, and five platoons of military shock troops, to restore order to the station.

Although Brazilians are not generally known for violent challenges to authority, this appears to be the latest in a series of scattered incidents that have pitted ordinary citizens against police.

In São Paulo last month, 1,500 squatters flung stones and pieces of wood at police who had come to drive them off city lands.

In Bahia state, in an apparent revolt against the justice system, 18 men accused of violent crimes have died at the hands of lynch mobs since December. Many of the alleged criminals were snatched away from police custody.

'Ivan the Terrible' trial

Demjanjuk queries witness on uniform

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

Mr John Demjanjuk, accused of being a Nazi war criminal, broke eight weeks of almost total silence in court yesterday when he brushed aside his defence lawyers and asked to question a prosecution witness directly.

Only once before has Mr Demjanjuk spoken out in court. During the third week of the trial, he shouted in Hebrew "You are a liar!" to one of the Treblinka concentration camp survivors who was testifying against him. Mr Demjanjuk is accused of being "Ivan the Terrible", the man responsible for executions at Treblinka.

Yesterday, after the bench had overruled a series of defence counsel questions to the prosecution's witness, Professor Wolfgang Schessler, a historian and expert on the SS Trawniki training camp the accused is alleged to have attended, Mr Demjanjuk raised his hand and asked to question the witness himself.

He then asked Professor Schessler, in firm, sonorous Ukrainian, about details of the uniform he was alleged to be wearing in the photograph of what the prosecution claims to be his Trawniki identity card.

The bench intervened, apparently to prevent the accused from incriminating himself, when Professor Schessler tried to suggest that Mr Demjanjuk should tell the court what he knew about the uniform.

After consulting with his lawyers, Mr Demjanjuk sought to dismiss any impression that his interest in details of the uniform might

have stemmed from personal knowledge at Trawniki.

"I have no knowledge of my own," he said, noting that everything he knew about the uniform "derives from what I have heard in this court". Professor Schessler concluded his fourth day on the stand yesterday, during which he vouched for the authenticity of the Trawniki identity card allegedly issued to the accused.

The court, however, once again turned down the prosecution's attempt to have the identity card admitted as evidence, pending the conclusion of forensic tests on the document by both prosecution and defence experts.

The court went into recess for the Passover week and will reconvene on April 21. A heavy winter: Norway has asked Israel for clarifications concerning the use being made of some 21 tons of heavy water supplied to Israel by Norway several years ago.

Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Norwegian Prime Minister, is reported to have discussed the matter with Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, in Rome earlier this week. They were in Rome for meetings of the Socialist International.

The question of the heavy water, which Norway supplied under the terms of its secret agreement signed in 1979, emerged after revelations made by the accused Israeli nuclear traitor, Mr Mordechai Vanunu, the Israeli accused of divulging nuclear secrets.

These resulted in a visit to Israel last month by senior Norwegian officials.



The British surgeon, Dr Pauline Cutting, speaking with one of her Palestinian patients in Beirut's Bourj al-Barajneh camp as he was being evacuated with 40 others yesterday.

Israeli helicopter gunships strike at Palestinian base

From Juan Carlos Garmelo, Beirut

Israeli helicopter gunships yesterday attacked a Palestinian guerrilla base in the hills east of Sidon and reports from the scene said two men were killed. Beirut radios quoted witnesses as saying one of the four Sea Cobra attack helicopters was shot down "and crashed in the sea".

There was no independent confirmation of the helicopter being downed, while the radio of the Israeli Army said an aircraft returned safely to base. The raid was Israel's ninth air strike in Lebanon since the so-called Fatah Uprising faction, led by Colonel Sa'ed Mousa, near the Ein al-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp.

Meanwhile, 45 wounded Palestinians were evacuated from the Bourj al-Barajneh refugee camp yesterday in yet another successful Syrian move to alleviate the suffering of victims of a merciless conflict.

A boy and a young man, who had lost their legs in shelling, were seen smiling timidly as they were taken to ambulances amid the cheers of a crowd of refugees. Others, including four women, were extracted from the ruins of the camp in stretchers, but only after a bulldozer had removed the piles of rubble and garbage from the narrow streets.

The evacuation followed the deployment of about 800 Syrian soldiers in and around the camp to disengage Palestinian guerrillas and forces of the Shia Muslim Amal militia.

Not a single shot marred the atmosphere of joy and relief after five months of fierce battles that have spared virtually none of the small houses of Bourj al-Barajneh.

Dr Pauline Cutting, the British surgeon who has resisted the siege with a small team of foreign volunteers working at the camp's Haifa hospital, was hugged and kissed by the evacuees. "At

last the siege and the suffering seems to have ended. You can see it on the people's faces, they are very relieved to see the end of this terrible, terrible suffering," she said.

"We had to work very hard and the lack of medicines contributed to the difficulties. Two children died because of the lack of medicines."

Young survivors: At Bourj al-Barajneh, 15-year-old Wissam Salim was pushed in his wheelchair towards an ambulance, escorted by his father (Reuters reports).

"I was getting some water some six weeks ago when a bullet struck me in the chest and came out of my back. Since then I have been paralysed in both legs," Wissam told reporters.

"It is my fate — I will just have to learn to accept it," the youth added, smiling.

Adham Abdallah Nahfawi, aged 14, lost both legs when a shell burst outside his home inside Bourj al-Barajneh two months ago. "I was there with my brothers and sisters. Nobody got hurt but me," he said.

Scores of women and children were allowed to leave Chastila and Bourj al-Barajneh yesterday and many were seen returning on foot with baskets crammed with fresh food for their families.

Anti-bug plan for British embassy

By Michael Evans Defence Correspondent

Britain's security authorities are already laying the groundwork for ensuring that the new British Embassy to be built in Moscow will be as secure as possible from Soviet spying and listening devices, after the uproar over the much-bugged American building.

Mrs Thatcher signed an agreement with the Russians when she was in Moscow which formally approved the sites chosen for the new British premises and the new Soviet Embassy and residence in London. Detailed construction agreements will follow.

When the construction programme has been agreed with the Russians, the project will bring into play an extraordinary team of experts employed by the Foreign Office.

The Foreign Office's own architects are already drawing up designs for the two buildings with a team chaired by

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, conferred yesterday with Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, who travels to Moscow on Sunday for critical talks that could lead to a superpower accord on the removal of intermediate-range missiles from Europe (Christopher Thomas writes from Washington).

the Duke of Gloucester. They will work closely with the Foreign Office technical department and the diplomatic states office of the Property Service Agency, monitoring all building material sent from Britain to Moscow.

Although the Foreign Office will have to rely on Soviet workers to build the foundations and the main structure of the embassy and residence, prefabricated sections will be sent from Britain in sealed containers for the most sensitive parts of the buildings.

In the embassy these are in the chancery area, which includes the political and defence sections, the ambassador's office, the communications centre and the most crucial section of the inner sanctum, the "bubble", the small, heavily insulated room, used for the most secret conversations and communications.

The prefabricated sections will be built, under tight security, by the Foreign Office's technical services department, not by private contractors.

It is accepted that all the areas outside the chancery, including the commercial and consular sections, will be "compromised" by the Russians who will, as a matter of course, place bugging devices inside the structure during the building of the embassy and the residence.

The inner sanctum is controlled by officers of MI6, the secret intelligence service. Then another Foreign Office department, the diplomatic telecommunications maintenance service, will regularly "sweep" this area for bugs.

It will look for the "infinity bug", placed in telephones to record conversations on the phone and in the room, microwave bugs which can be switched on and off, and minute fibre-optic devices. But however sophisticated the bug, in order to work it has to transmit. The trick for the "sweeping" department is to detect the transmissions.

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Rush to take up agony aunt's burden

From Charles Bremner Chicago

What do you do when the world's most famous agony aunt decides to leave your employment for the rival newspaper up the street?

When Ann Landers left in February, the Chicago Sun-Times threw open the job to all comers through a national contest, and is only just recovering from the deluge.

More than 11,000 people from every part of America except North Dakota, plus several from abroad, applied to take over the job of Miss Landers, whose advice to the lovers and the insecure is read by 85 million people.

Miss Landers, aged 67, whose real name is Epie Lederer, moved to the Chicago Tribune "for a change" after 32 years in which she became a national institution syndicated to 1,100 newspapers at

home and abroad. No other advice-giver has been able to come close to the success of Miss Landers and her almost as well-known identical twin sister, who writes under the name of "Dear Abby".

Flip and lively, but also demure and commonsensical, Miss Landers counsels daily on the traumatic and trivial, on sex, mental illness and alcoholism, wedding gifts, snoring and how to tell someone his files are undone.

Would-be advice-givers virtually stormed the Sun-Times building in Chicago's city centre.

Candidates also bombarded the newspaper with books they had written and films they had produced. An agent for Britain's best known agony aunt also inquired about her prospects.

Mr Matthew Storia, the editor, "and it's not just the numbers, but the intensity. So many people thought this was just the job for them and they were just made for the job. When you get 11,000, that's impressive."

Editors chose 108 semi-finalists — 18 of them men — who were asked to submit advice to "desperate in Des Plaines" whose husband has threatened to walk out if she fails to lose weight. They must also advise a homosexual whose lover has AIDS and a man who suspects that his brother is having an affair with his wife. The winner should be known in June.

Experts are this week choosing six finalists, whose advice will be judged by readers. Miss Lederer was a housewife when she applied along with only 27 others for the job after the newspaper

advertised in 1955.

You get a sense of the passion that drove so many Americans to offer their services from the mountains of letters and photographs piled on the desk in Miss Landers's old, pink-painted office. On one end there is the humourless prose of the countless psychiatrists with professionally printed CVs anxious to ram communications skills.

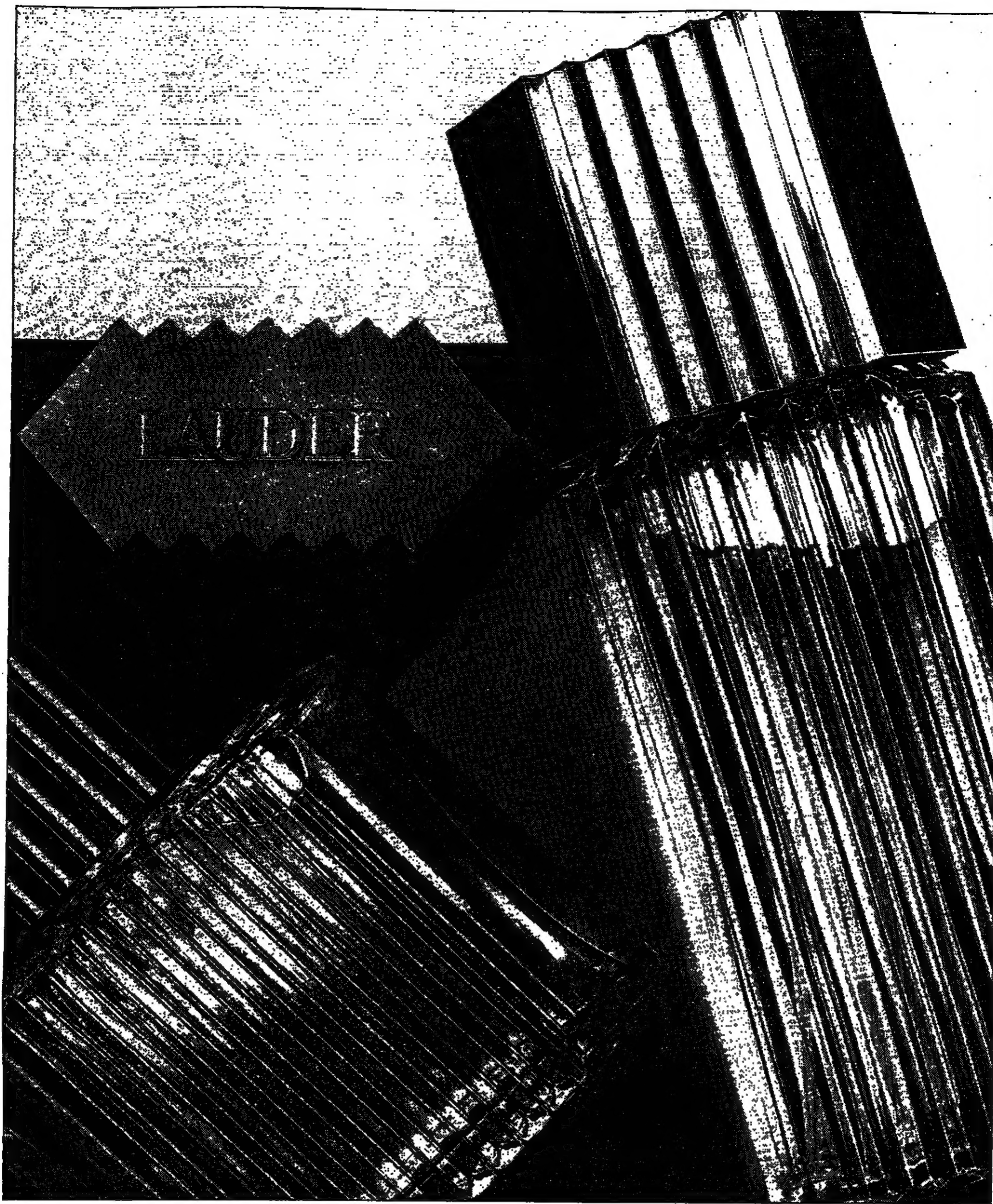
In even greater number are the homely, naive and often barely literate handwritten appeals for the job from middle-aged and elderly housewives, who list their sufferings and say their friends turn to them for advice.

Mr Storia says he expects the new columnist to be a little less staid than Miss Landers, who only recently brought herself to tackle the technicalities of sex.

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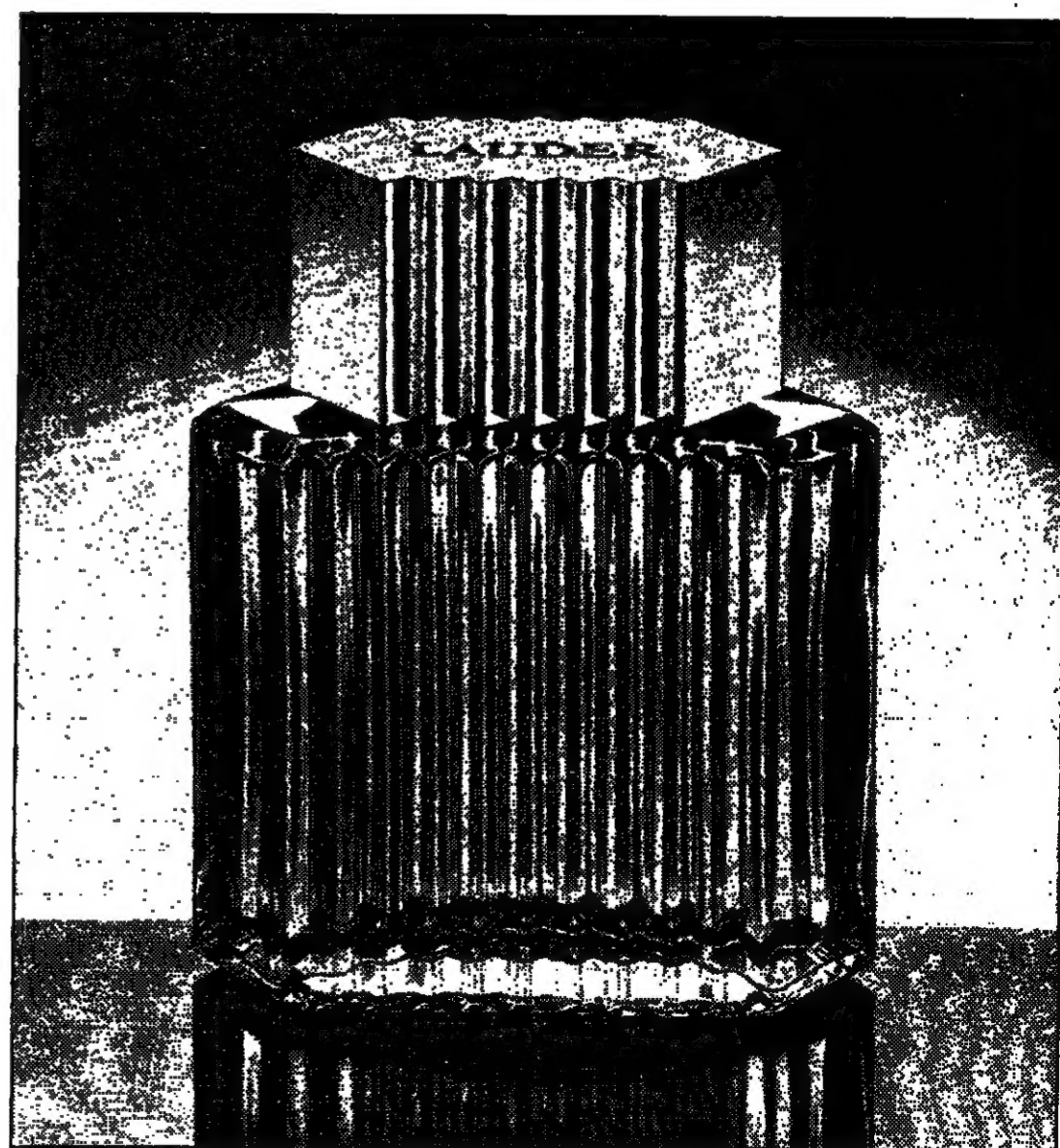


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Israeli President condemns silence of East Germany over 'indescribable horrors' of the Nazi past

Herzog hails Berlin's example of freedom

From Richard Owen, Berlin

Berlin is unavoidably a city of symbols — symbols of past grandeur, now in ruins, of the Nazi terror which was directed from Berlin, and of the present East-West divide.

President Chaim Herzog's visit yesterday was also inevitably rich in symbolism. It did not quite amount to Jewish forgiveness for the Nazi past, but it did have one powerful and unexpected theme: that while the West Germans have done a very great deal to atone for the Holocaust, and none more than the West Berliners, the communist East Germans have done nothing whatever to make amends, even though they share the same past and the same burden of guilt.

With Mr Mikhail Gorbachev making his postponed visit to Czechoslovakia, President Herzog said that the Russians and East Europeans, for all the talk of a new liberalism, were still oppressing "all those who long to live in freedom but are denied the rights we take for granted", including the "great silent masses of my own people".

At last night's dinner attended by President Richard von Weizsäcker of West Germany and Herr Eberhard Diepgen, the Mayor of West Berlin, the Israeli President remarked uncompromisingly that Nazi crimes could not be

wished away. With Berlin symbolism uppermost in his mind, he noted that the past still looms like an invisible wall between our two peoples, a wall before which we can only stand mute, erected as it was by the millions of my people who perished in flames and gas on the soil of these lands and this Europe.

He condemned the "pusillanimous and weak" Western powers which failed to act when the Nazis launched the *Kristallnacht* pogroms and used the burning of the Reichstag in Berlin as an excuse for terror leading ultimately to "indescribable horror".

But yesterday, the last full day of the visit, was dominated by thoughts of "good Germans," from the German resistance to Hitler to the current "great West German President," in Mr Herzog's words. A tour which began on Monday at Belsen, a symbol of Jewish persecution, neared its end yesterday with a visit to Plötzensee, the former prison in Berlin where German officers who plotted against Hitler in July 1944 were strung up on meat hooks, as the grisly execution was filmed for Hitler's enjoyment.

He also went to the headquarters of the Axel Springer Corporation, the right-wing publishers of the daily *Bild*, to



President Herzog, right, accompanied by Herr Eberhard Diepgen, the West Berlin Mayor, pointing over the Berlin Wall to East Germany during a visit yesterday to the Reichstag, the former German parliament building.

pay homage to the late Herr Springer's dedication to friendship with Israel.

The Springer building, like the Reichstag, overlooks the infamous Wall, and the contrast between the democratic West and the communist East seemed never far from Presi-

dent Herzog's thoughts as he surveyed the city he last saw as a British Army officer in 1945.

"Your stand is an example to many in the free world, and to many on the other side of the Wall," he observed. Those who like him had walked

dazed among the ruins of 1945, "could never have dreamt of the Berlin I see before me now". But equally they had never dreamt that a wall would split the great city in two and "mark the border between two worlds".

The difference was that West Germany had had the courage "to look the past straight in the eye. On the other side of the Wall, responsibility for the past was, and still is, denied. Their silence is pregnant with meaning and speaks louder than words."

Bomb in Botswana follows Pretoria warning on ANC

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A car bomb exploded early yesterday morning in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, only a few hours after the South African Foreign Minister, Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, had issued a thinly veiled warning that Pretoria might make raids into neighbouring countries to preempt an alleged plan by the outlawed African National Congress to disrupt the whites-only general election here on May 6.

Senior Superintendent Edwin Basha of the Gaborone police told *The Times* by telephone that the explosion, apparently caused by a bomb planted in a minibus, had demolished a house in Gaborone West, killing its elderly female owner and two children. Three other people — an elderly man, a woman and a small boy — were injured. All the dead and wounded were citizens of Botswana.

There was speculation here that the bombing might have been the work of South African agents who believed the house to be used by the ANC. Another theory was that ANC operatives might have hidden explosives in the minibus, intending to take it into South Africa, and that the explosion was accidental.

Politicians of the opposition Progressive Federal Party yesterday called Mr Botha's warning about the ANC an electioneering stunt designed to create a mood of panic among white voters.

Speaking to an audience of some 500 ruling National Party supporters at Uvongo on the south coast of Natal on Wednesday night, Mr Botha claimed that "heavily armed terrorists" had assembled in Lusaka, the Zambian capital. "They are on their way via Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique to come and kill innocent people and disrupt the elections."

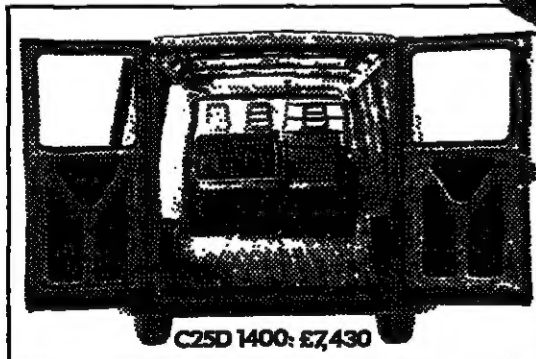
Mr Botha said he had sent messages to the governments concerned urging them "to stop these terrorists moving through their countries. If these terrorists proceed and carry out their evil plan, our security forces will take whatever steps are necessary to retaliate and to protect our borders."

An increased emphasis by government ministers on the alleged ANC threat is expected in the run-up to the election. Workers arrested: More than 300 members of a striking black transport workers union were arrested by police near the city of Springs, in eastern Transvaal province, for allegedly gathering illegally, the Government's Bureau of Information said yesterday (AP reports from Johannesburg).

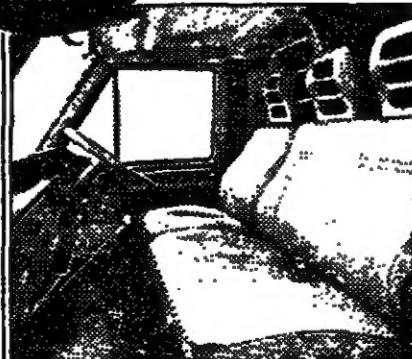
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Spacecraft fails in second bid to dock

Moscow (Reuters) — The Soviet Union's new Kvant space module yesterday failed to link up completely in a second docking attempt with the manned space station Mir and ground control was deciding whether or not the mission could be saved.

Tass said that Kvant, a fundamentally new type of craft, had functioned normally through every stage of rendezvous and docking before it hooked up with Mir.

But analysis of information from the craft showed the link-up was incomplete and scientists were studying the data received to decide whether it would be possible to continue operations with the module.

A first attempt to dock Kvant with Mir, which has been manned since February by the cosmonauts Commander Yuri Romanenko, aged 42, and Commander Alexander Laveikin, aged 35, was aborted on Sunday when the module's directional systems failed.

"When mechanical contact between the docking walls of the module and the station was achieved, the spacecraft began to be linked up," Tass said.

"Analysis of telemetric information from the spacecraft indicates, however, that the link-up of the module and the orbital station is not complete."

Kvant was launched on March 31 carrying 1.5 tonnes of scientific instruments and equipment for use in experiments to be carried out in space by commanders Romanenko and Laveikin.

A Soviet space expert said yesterday that Kvant, which weighs more than 28 tonnes together with a service pod, had enough fuel to try two more dockings after the first failed attempt.

PARIS: The accident-prone third-stage engine of the European Ariane space rocket has suffered a new hitch in testing, just a week after an error forced the dismantling of the previous motor undergoing trials (Reuters reports).

An Arianeespace spokesman said yesterday that the problem was still being assessed and it was not known whether there would be any delay in the next launch, scheduled to take place in June.

Six die as New York flats fall after blast

New York (Reuters) — Six people were killed and 16 injured when a four-storey block of flats and an adjoining grocery shop exploded and collapsed in the Bronx.

Twelve rescue workers were also hurt after the blast, which fire officials suspect was caused by gas.

1,800 missing

Hong Kong (AFP) — More than 1,800 Vietnamese refugees who chose to sail on rather than stay in the colony's closed camps for refugees, are missing, a newspaper said.

Editor quits

Belgrade (Reuters) — Mr Miran Lesjak, editor of the Yugoslav youth magazine *Kadava*, resigned after being criticized by the authorities for publishing an interview with a leading dissident.

Crew killed

Travis Air Force Base, California (AP) — A Southern Air Transport cargo plane plunged into a field and exploded while on a training flight, killing all five crew.

Chalker trip

Addis Ababa (Reuters) — Mrs Lynda Chalker, the Foreign Office Minister, arrived on a two-day fact-finding tour of relief operations in Ethiopia.

Disaster toll

Delhi (Reuters) — Natural disasters such as floods, cyclones and drought killed 1,180 in the past 12 months, the Press Trust of India said.

Lagos bail

Lagos (Reuters) — Three senior editors of the proscribed Nigerian magazine *Newsweek* have been released on bail after 24 hours in custody.

African aid

Brussels (AP) — The European Commission is to give nearly £1 million in urgent aid to Mozambique, Uganda, Ivory Coast and Cameroon.

Fighter deal

Peking (AFP) — China is considering selling F-7M combat planes to Brazil, the New China News Agency said.

Kohl weighs up his economies of scale

From John England, Bonn

Chancellor Kohl of West Germany is taking two weeks off from weighty affairs of state to tackle his equally heavy personal problems with his bathroom scales.

He has gone to a "hunger cure" clinic at Bad Hofgastein, in Austria, where he is living on a frugal diet of stale, rock-hard breakfast rolls, herb tea and water. A similar cure last year shed 15 lb from his "manager size" frame, but official banquets and his fondness for the pleasures of his domestic table soon filled the gap, and more.

Herr Kohl's weight is not the stuff of Chancellery bulletins, but observers put it at present around 19 st. His drastic diet, based on the teachings of one Franz Xavier Mayr and of the Marquis de Sade, requires him to spend at least 20 minutes on eating a sliced (or sautéed) roll. If he follows these orders, reports

say, he is rewarded with a teaspoonful of milk to help it go down.

Herr Kohl, local spies add, is also going on lung walks. Described as a "good patient", he will no doubt return to Bonn, as he did last year, with a somewhat streamlined figure. But his new shape is not expected to last long.

The Chancellor, who has just turned 57, is a big man with a small boy's sweet tooth. He makes his own rich cream caramel, likes generous helpings of noodles of any kind and is said to adore *Sauerkraut*, a dish from his own Pfalz region, which is well seasoned with pork sausage meat packed into a pig's stomach.

Many of his Cabinet ministers are also men of ample physique but the British Cabinet principle of collective responsibility has never been favoured in Bonn, and is especially not on in this case.

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Spring of discontent brings challenge to González

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's Communist-run trade unions will make their bid today to bring out a million workers in a "general day of protest" and battle of wills with the Government of Señor Felipe González.

But today is also for millions of Spaniards the start of an Easter break, and so they will be "punished" by a 24-hour public transport strike involving Iberia, the state airline, the domestic airline, the state railways and Madrid's underground trains.

On 14 days over the next three weeks, there will be 24-hour stoppages for more wages in the building and car industries, mining and textiles, the state hotel network and petrol stations. Doctors and public health workers were already yesterday on the second day of a 72-hour hospital stoppage, accompanied by 15,000 protesting medical students.

Spain's spring of discontent contrasts with that autumn four and a half years ago when Señor González, about to win the general election, gave a promise of "change", the slogan interpreted by the 10 million who voted Socialist as meaning improvements for them.

Cabinet colleagues of the Prime Minister insist these days on the multiplicity of the complaints, the contradictions

between them, and the consequent difficulty of finding negotiating partners who could "deliver" if a compromise was reached.

Señor Juan Barranco, Madrid's Socialist Mayor, worried about the impact of weeks of street protests in this city on his chances in the June 10 municipal elections, blames



Señor Solchaga: a bitter quarrel with Señor Redondo, the veteran Socialist trade union leader, has complicated Spain's already grave labour troubles.

his own party for losing contact with the feelings of ordinary people.

This is criticism of national party leaders too tightly controlled by the Prime Minister's office. Señor González, in his rare public appearances nowadays, emphasizes his interest in efficiency at the expense of ideological trappings. The trouble is that efficiency is the most obvious element Spain currently lacks.

This year's labour troubles stem from the absence of the annual national wage framework accord between unions and employers.

Superimposed on this is the Communist-run Workers' Commissions' politically motivated battle with the Government and a bitter personal quarrel between Señor Carlos Solchaga, the Economics and Finance Minister, and Señor Nicolás Redondo, the veteran Socialist trade union leader.

After four and a half years in office, the Government is still toiling over crucial reforms in the national health and civil services. Many civil servants recruited in the Franco era make progress difficult.

Restructuring old, inefficient industries causes sharp conflicts in specific areas as the Government tries to meet the requirements of EEC membership. But it faces a labour force still clinging to Franco regime rigidities.

This week a West German employers' delegation told the Government what it had to do, and a delegation from the

Confederation of British Industry will visit Spain later this month.

At a Madrid lunch club meeting earlier this week, the leader of the Socialist civil servants' union confronted the Socialist Deputy Minister for Civil Service Reform, telling him: "You can talk about everything, but there is money for nothing."

A fundamental problem for the González Government this spring is the gap between the public purse and the Spanish people's expectations, encouraged by the Socialists in opposition but also by all previous governments since the advent of democracy.

"I voted for the Socialists in 1982 and now in government they have become so arrogant," one of the striking medical students' leaders told me yesterday. They are protesting against the Government's interpretation of the EEC directive requiring all medical students by 1992 to have had two years' experience in hospitals before they can qualify.

Señor Julián García Vargas, the Health Minister, has had to tell the students that their country's budget simply does not run to more training of all those young Spaniards who want to join the ranks of the country's well-paid doctors.

17 guns for new Governor

From David Bonavia
Hong Kong

Sir David Wilson, the new Governor of Hong Kong, arrived here yesterday, wearing the traditional white uniform and plumed topee, took up his appointment with a highly formal welcome from local dignitaries.

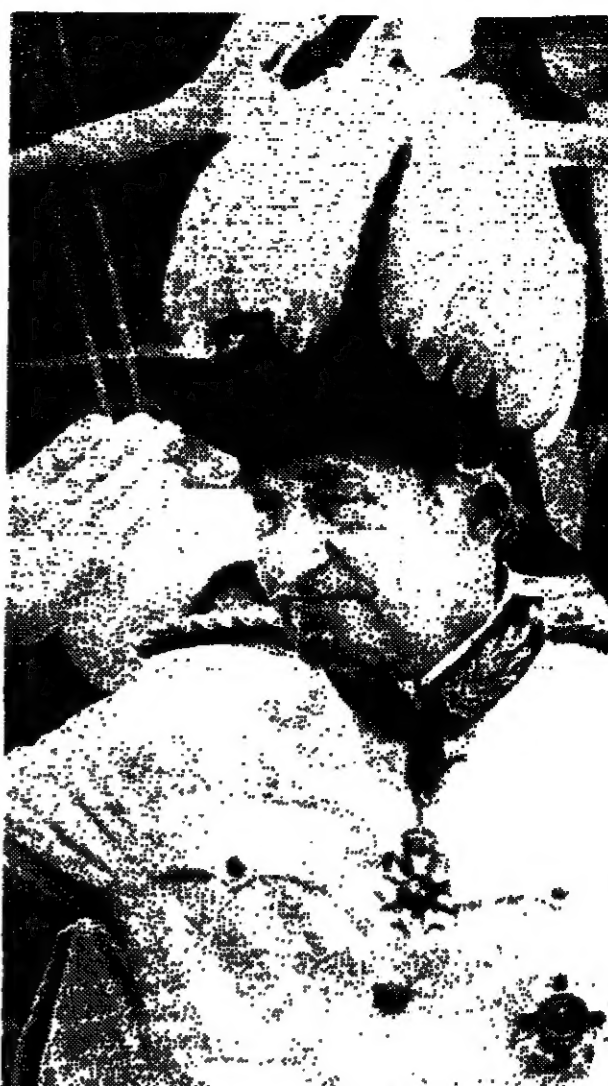
Sir David and Lady Wilson were brought from the airport on the mainland side of the harbour in the launch "Lady Maureen", set aside for the Governor's private use. A 17-gun salute was fired from naval headquarters and the band played six bars of the national anthem.

After inspecting the Gurkha units who help garrison Hong Kong, Sir David was taken to the town hall near by to swear the oaths of allegiance before the political and commercial elite of the territory, which reverts to full Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

Sir David and Sir David Akery-Jones, hitherto the acting Governor, referred in their speeches to the achievements of the late Sir Edward Youde, who died during a visit to China last year.

The new Governor, who is aged 52, will be an extremely busy man, coping with Hong Kong's political and economic developments and the social problems of a sophisticated city state in transition to a "special administrative region" of the People's Republic of China.

The Wilsons later gave a reception for leading Hong Kong residents.



Sir David Wilson, Hong Kong's new Governor, saluting the Gurkha guard before being sworn in yesterday.

Hold-up in key Deng reforms at congress

From Robert Gries
Peking

In a move that underscores the difficulties faced by Mr Deng Xiaoping's reforms, Mr Peng Zhen, chairman of China's National People's Congress, has announced that draft regulations concerning the organization of rural village committees are unlikely to be adopted as legislation at the congress's current session.

Mr Peng, aged 85, made his remarks to Hong Kong and Macao reporters at a press conference held in the Great Hall of the People here.

The regulations, which were expected to be approved today, would have institutionalized the rural village committees, some 950,000 of which have been set up throughout the countryside since 1982.

Meanwhile, the official closing of the congress was pushed back from today to the weekend, possibly to allow more time for debate on the village committee regulations.

A law on state industrial enterprises, which would have underwritten the primacy of managers in factories rather than that of party bosses, has also been postponed.

Taken as a whole, the present NPC session appears to have stalled for the moment some of Mr Deng's key economic and political reforms.

Australian Bicentennial

Budget cuts wither Canberra pastures

From Stephen Taylor, Canberra

Construction workers at Canberra's new Parliament House have started a programme of so-called "fast-track building" to get this symbol of national prestige ready for a dramatic opening ceremony during next year's Bicentennial.

The urgency on Capital Hill is well-founded. The project is far behind schedule and even though an opening will be able to go ahead in 15 months' time, the new home of the federal legislature will probably not be in full use until the end of 1988.

With an election pending, the Government of Mr Bob Hawke is keen to get the maximum benefit from a structure which, for cost and concept, is being compared with another Australian architectural wonder, the Sydney Opera House.

Perhaps it was inevitable that the new Parliament would be the costliest structure in Australian history, particularly when just one feature, a 266ft-high flagpole, has cost \$Aus 4.4 million (about £1.8 million).

Even so, the disclosure that the final bill will top \$Aus 1 billion, at a time when Australia's trade imbalance is matched only by the scale of the national debt, was likely to provoke a public clamour. Savings of \$Aus 43.3 million ordered last July had already brought the axe down on such facilities as the bowling green and an emergency civil defence shelter, the purpose of which has never been disclosed.

By agreeing to cheaper furnishings and recycling some of their old desks and chairs, the nation's leaders managed to save taxpayers another \$Aus 11 million.

Still the outcry continued, however, prompting another round of economizing, and this time it was the cuts which started the storm.

Mr Walter Burley Griffin, the American landscape architect whose design for Canberra as a federal capital was adopted back in 1912, conceived it as a garden city. Accordingly, the Parliament was always intended to be "elegantly integrated into its

site and surroundings" on a 99-acre hillside.

Carving a sizeable \$Aus 9.5 million chunk from the landscaping budget has changed all that.

The chief casualty is the irrigation scheme which was to have kept the lawns, shrub-beries and trees on Capital Hill in a state of constant lushness, in line with Mr Griffin's vision.

Without regular watering of the area the new Parliament, far from blending pleasantly with the natural landscape, will be seen squatting starkly on a mound of dry, brown grass.

It is hard to find anyone in Canberra at the moment who thinks this is a reasonable idea. Mr Gordon Peatrey, head of the Parliament Construction Authority, says it is unquestionably a serious departure from the design plan. The architects themselves are apparently "mortified".

One irate Canberra resident went on television to suggest that, as Capital Hill is going to be dry enough to resemble the Outback anyway, the standing committee of MPs responsible for the cuts should go the whole hog and let kangaroos on to the site.

Mr Hawke is bothered as well. He wrote to the standing committee saying he believed the effect would "greatly diminish the impact of the building". He is also reportedly concerned about economies to the courtyard where he will receive visiting heads of state. It is proposed that features like a sculpture, pergolas and running water will be sacrificed, reducing the area to an austere patch of lawn.

The committee rejected the Prime Minister's proposal that the eight tennis courts for members' use be scrapped instead.

Consensus, not confrontation, is the keyword of the Hawke administration. As a negotiator honed by years of experience in Australian trade union affairs, the Prime Minister knows how to wait. The betting in Canberra is that the final word has not been heard in the landscape battle.

JAL crash inquiry halted after suicide

Tokyo (Reuters) — An investigation of three Japanese government aircraft inspectors after the worst single-plane crash in history has been stopped after a request by the Transport Ministry, police said yesterday.

The ministry made the request last week, an official said, after the suicide of a fourth inspector who was questioned by police for four days last month.

A police spokesman in Gunma prefecture, where a Japan Air Lines Boeing 747 crashed on August 12, 1985, killing 520 of the 524 people on board, said: "We do not really need to talk to them. We are not easing off because we are afraid they will kill themselves."

The police were questioning several airline maintenance staff to determine who was responsible for the crash.

A draft report by a Transport Ministry investigation team, obtained this week, said that faulty repairs in 1978 by

the US Boeing Company and inadequate inspection by ministry inspectors had contributed to the cause of the disaster. The report is expected to be made public next month.

Boeing has said it will probably not comment on the report until it is officially released.

NEW DELHI: India and Canada have paid \$4.8 million (£3 million) in compensation to families of 114 victims of an Air India plane crash off the Irish coast two years ago, the Government announced here yesterday (AFP reports).

All 329 people on board an Air India Boeing 747 on a scheduled flight from Toronto to Bombay died when it crashed on June 23, 1985, after a bomb allegedly planted by Sikh militants exploded in the cargo section.

The Civil Aviation Minister, Mr Jagdish Tytler, told Parliament that 69 of the claims were settled in India and the rest in Canada.

A Twit

SIGNATURE

B Wise

SIGNATURE

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In other words, ask him about us.

SCOTTISH AMICABLE

SPECTRUM



In which they served: merchant ships like the Methane Princess, laid up on the River Fal, Cornwall, could be vital in a future European war — but are enough of them close to home?

The fleet's up a creek

Five years ago this week, the Falklands task force was en route to the south Atlantic, followed by an armada of vital merchant ships. One lesson was learned and Royal Navy cuts have not gone ahead. But, as George Hill reports, the merchant fleet is still in rapid and alarming decline

The Falklands war five years ago brought about a radical and rapid reversal in the Government's policy towards warships, with a planned run-down of the Royal Navy dropped in the light of the conflict with the Argentinians. Yet the fate of the merchant fleet, which played a crucial if less public role in the south Atlantic, has been entirely different. It has been run down on an unprecedented scale — last year alone its tonnage shrank by one-third — and the number of British-owned and registered merchant ships has shrunk by almost 50 per cent compared with just before the Falklands war. Half the merchant ships in the conflict now sail under foreign flags.

Although only a few merchant vessels caught public attention in the Falklands — notably the liners Queen Elizabeth II and Canberra, the Uganda, a cruising classroom turned hospital ship, and the container ship Atlantic Conveyor, sunk by Exocet missiles with the loss of 12 lives — they all contributed crucially to the successful outcome of the conflict.

Indeed, the carriers and frigates of the fighting fleet

were only a minority of the force and they could never have operated, in waters almost 4,000 miles from a friendly port, without the backing of a larger fleet of service and supply ships, most of which were requisitioned or chartered from the merchant fleet. At the height of the fighting, more than half of the entire fleet at sea consisted of such vessels, with volunteer civilian crews.

Since the Falklands, there has been no shortage of lobbying on behalf of the merchant fleet, culminating in the weeks before last month's Budget with the owners' organizations and the National Union of Seamen mounting a strenuous campaign to recover tax concessions abolished in 1984. The Chancellor pointedly ignored them.

It is true that the number of vessels in the Falklands marine is still 10 times as large as the total of 55 that sailed with the warships to the Falklands. The fleet is also healthier than it was in the early 1980s, in that it contains a relatively small number of ships laid up without work (a factor which paradoxically was a great help in assembling the Task Force).

But within months of the Falklands cease-fire, the Mer-

chant Navy and Airline Officers' Association warned that the rate of decline would make it impossible to mount another Falklands operation after the end of 1983. Since then the decline has not slowed, but accelerated alarmingly. Yet all Britain's military planning assumes that, in any sustained European war, these ships would play at least as important a role as they did in the Falklands, and one demanding much greater resources.

The Falklands precedent may be disquieting, but the real naval challenge facing Britain is far more exacting. The chances of Britain ever again having to fight such an oddity as the Falklands campaign are vanishingly remote. Military planning is centred on the far more complex and dangerous possibility of a major conflict in Europe, and the Merchant Navy's designated role in that scenario would be crucial.

Among the most persistent advocates of more support for shipping is Sir Edward du Cann, Conservative MP for Taunton. "Any examination of the tasks Nato would ask of the Merchant Navy in wartime shows that we do not have the ships to discharge them by miles," he says.

He is discouraged that the authorities seem so blinkered. "Even if the Ministry of Defence claims that there are enough ships for our Nato role, that still leaves the supply of the civilian population to be dealt with."

On paper it would be possible to raise a fleet comparable to the Falklands one today, although the virtual disappearance of the deep-water fishing fleet would make minesweepers harder to find. But what counts is the number of ships in the right place at the right time. At any given moment most of a world-wide trading fleet will be out of reach, or under refit.

Three roles are officially foreseen for merchant ships in a European war — to carry troops from Britain to the mainland, to supply the forces there, and to bring reinforcements across the Atlantic. But even to state the problem in those terms opens up a relatively leisurely vista of con-

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Five years ago the Royal Fleet Auxiliary was able to charter and requisition 52 ships to fight in the Falklands in a matter of weeks. All but two of them were registered in Britain at the time. Of the remaining 50, fewer than half are now registered on the British mainland.

Scrapped (2): Passenger ship Uganda and container ship Atlantic Causeway.

Sold abroad (11): Passenger ferries: Rangitira (Cyprus); Tankers: British Test (Iran), British Avon (Italy), British Dart (Iran), Scottish Eagle (Cyprus), Anco Charger (Liberia), Cargo ships: Lycan (Panama).

Strathwa (Greece), Saxonia (Cyprus), Trawlers: Cordella (New Zealand), Junella (Norway).

Registered abroad (15): Passenger ships: St Edmund (Bahamas), St Helena (St Helena), Cargo ship: Tor Caledonia (Bahamas); Tankers: British Tamar (Bahamas), British Tay (Bahamas), British Forth (Bahamas), British Wye (Bahamas), British Trent (Bahamas), Alvega (Gibraltar), Fort Toronto (Isle of Man), Eburna (Isle of Man), G.A. Walker (Isle of Man), Trawlers: Pict (Guernsey), Chemical carriers: Orionman (Isle of Man).

UK OWNED TRADING FLEET (over 500 deadweight tonnes)				
Year	UK owned and reg	UK owned, foreign reg	Total tonnes of world fleet	Percentage
1975	1,514	Not known	50m	3.0
1982	968	105 (est)	28.8m	3.4
1985	525	90	16.7m	3.1

MERCHANT MANPOWER		
	Dec 1976	Dec 1986
Officers	36,114	11,577
Ratings	34,812	17,250
Total	70,926	28,827

not disposed of their fleets, but have simply transferred them to other flags. But Sir Edward du Cann warns: "Any suggestion that we could promptly requisition British-owned ships which have been moved to overseas registers belies the realities."

"We learned in the Falklands that ships with foreign crews could not be counted on. There is a broader need for a thriving seafaring industry; it supplies the skilled manpower necessary in an emergency, as well as for all kinds of peacetime services."

The clearest need is for a European war would be for roll-on roll-off ferries for amphibious operations, ships that can be used to lay mines and take anti-mine counter-measures, and small tankers and supply ships. Container ships that can be converted to carry aircraft would be valuable.

The number of ships the planners are counting on in a future conflict is a military secret. Asterisks sprinkle ministers' replies in the minutes of the parliamentary

committees which have repeatedly fretted over the problem since 1982. It appears that in 1984 the Ministry of Defence was thinking in terms of at least 400 ships.

Last year's dramatic contraction in the fleet brought the number of mainland UK-registered vessels down to 523, leading the General Council of British Shipping to warn that the number might be down to 100 by 1995. Unless there is an uncanny correspondence between the types of ships needed and the types which happen to survive, there is probably already an effective shortfall.

With British regulations on manning and pay-rates rigorous, many owners have not unreasonably abandoned the Red Ensign in droves and registered their ships under other flags — or else have moved out of shipping altogether. The incentive to build new ships is slight, so the remaining fleet grows older and less competitive. The root question is how much the country is prepared to spend bolstering up an uncompetitive fleet for a highly-defined role in a hypothetical conflict.

In immediate economic terms, the weight of the argument points the other way. Shipping interests all over the world have played the patriotic card with huge success for many years. Subsidies have forced freight levels down to unrealistic levels.

Where Britain may still be able to compete is with specialized high-technology ships that its rivals cannot produce, and with crews having the high skills to man them. The three off-the-peg ship designs announced by British Shipbuilders last month show the possible shape of the future. But this implies a further run-down in Britain's elderly fleet, and in overall size. And there is no guarantee that the types which could compete commercially would meet defence needs.

"I'm coming to the conclusion that our fleet is largely obsolete," says Stephen Ross, Liberal MP for the Isle of Wight and a member of the Commons transport committee. "I don't think throwing large sums of money is the answer — we need to encourage new ideas, new techniques. The danger is that we may get down to the point where we no longer have the resources to recover. But we're a maritime nation, we're surrounded by water. Could we really survive without a thriving seafaring industry?"

Leading article, page 13

Young Irish brain drain

A recent EEC rule has prompted southern Irish students, unable to afford college courses in the Republic, to seek places across the waters — at Britain's expense

The Dublin hotel foyer had rarely been busier. In the bar, customers settled down to watch an afternoon's racing, but upstairs the rest room was preparing for an invasion of young people and their parents. It had been the same in Cork and Limerick, with hundreds flocking to learn of opportunities available at Scottish colleges.

As parents gathered armfuls of leaflets on courses, anxious students quizzed representatives about entrance requirements and the chances of employment on the mainland. After four days in the Irish Republic some 1,500 students had met the delegates from Scotland, who were as stunned by the response as visitors from Liverpool Polytechnic had been during a similar trip earlier this year.

The Scottish delegates should not, perhaps, have been surprised. They had written to every school within a 50-mile radius of the three cities on their itinerary, and they left with lists of names of prospective students wanting application forms to colleges in Dundee, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Paisley and Aberdeen. The numbers hoping for

than £4,000 (£3,670) a year, D'Arcy admitted he could not afford to send his two girls as well.

"We are educating for emigration," he said. "This country cannot support its young people. I think it will be cheaper to maintain them outside this country."

High fees and a strict grants system can almost cripple many middle-income families. Parents with three children hoping to put an eldest child through university must earn less than £13,330 (£11,926) to qualify for a grant.

But paying fees for a growing immigrant student population may not prove



'This country cannot support its young people'

higher education across the Irish Sea is evidence of both the pressure for places and the cost of courses in the Republic, two factors that are causing despair for ambitious parents and their children. They are also turning the Republic into an ideal recruiting ground for UK institutions, threatened by rationalization or even closure due to declining birth-rates. In the Republic half the population is under 25 and too many school-leavers are chasing too few places.

A big attraction for southern Irish parents is the financial saving. Following a recent EEC ruling, students from Common Market countries studying in Britain can now have their annual £536 tuition fee paid by the British Exchequer. Few noticed the change at first but a trickle is now turning into a flood in the Republic, where fees range from £600 (£525) to £1,600 (£1,467) a year.

"I don't mind admitting it's the financial bonus," said Gerard D'Arcy, who had travelled from Athlone to Dublin to find out about the Scottish colleges for his two daughters. With two children already at university in the Republic at a cost of more

popular with education authorities. At present, the British Exchequer is hit both ways — paying fees for Irish students at UK universities and colleges as well as for UK students at establishments in the Republic. The former vice-chancellor of Queen's University in Belfast has warned of a possible reaction in the north to a large influx from the south, especially if Irish students are perceived as being "educated on the cheap".

A spokesman for the Scottish Education Department said: "We are getting applications from the Irish Republic which are being considered but we don't know the figures involved yet."

Richard Ford

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- 2 1/8th fluid oz (6)
- 3 Good (4)
- 4 Gaberdine raincoat (8)
- 5 Let air out (7)
- 6 Sun related (5)
- 7 Philip II's 1588 fleet (7,6)
- 8 Stone worker (5)
- 9 Current (7)
- 10 Yangtze port (8)
- 11 Yearn (4)
- 12 Macaque monkey (6)
- 13 Muzzle loader stick (6)

DOWN

- 1 Apart from (7)
- 2 Low, surly (5)
- 3 First public show (5)
- 4 Ominous (4)
- 5 Petals (7)
- 6 Corporation leader (5)
- 7 Put in line (5)
- 8 Fragment (5)
- 9 Soothe (7)
- 10 Assured (7)
- 11 Mean type (5)
- 12 Willow twig (5)
- 13 Church singing group (5)
- 14 In this manner (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1228

- ACROSS: 1 Black, 2 Gaudy, 3 Scalped, 4 Polka, 5 Spiv, 6 Clippie, 7 Deprivation, 8 Boswell, 9 Lapp, 10 Canal, 11 Elongant, 12 Svetle, 13 Strong, 14 Base, 15 Scamp, 16 Cape Verde, 17 Alp, 18 Calypso, 19 Eased, 20 Black Velvet, 21 Sed, 22 Intellect, 23 Easiness, 24 Nip, 25 Abacus, 26 Piano, 27 Stag, 28 Lot.

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THE TIMES

SATURDAY

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Mortimer on Olivier

"It's hard to write dispassionately of an actor who has been your father, and died in your father's bed..."
In *The Times* tomorrow, John Mortimer pays tribute to Lord Olivier, who will be 80 next month.

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FRIDAY PAGE

Caroline Phillips meditates on the less sinister side of self-awareness courses

Seven years ago, when I was a politics student, I attended a weekend seminar — one which, offering instant enlightenment, promised to change one's life. Students who had attended it glowed with confidence, displaying an enviable clarity of purpose, and enhanced ability to communicate. The course had its biggest impact at Bristol University. It was not run under the aegis of the university, but rather of one Robert D'Aubigny, a former actor and son of a meat salesman. It was called Exegesis and folded in 1984.

The seminar, which employed a range of heavily-confrontational, psychological techniques in the name of self-development, had a liberating effect on my mind and pocket. Something that was based so much on fear and authoritarian leadership patterns was reprehensible. But it offered some valuable insights and perspectives which have had a lasting, beneficial effect.

Exegesis wasn't a cult: there was no religious worship and no devotion to a person. Participants were not brainwashed although, as a malleable teenager, I was probably somewhat indoctrinated. There were no signs, at that time, of Serious Money on the same scale as the fleet of Rolls-Royces owned by Rajneesh, guru of the Orange People, although it became clear later that D'Aubigny had strong material and political ambitions. And there were no Scientology-type billion-year contracts (affirming a belief

'Insight is the best thing that ever happened to me'

in reincarnation) on offer. Yet Exegesis constituted the very extreme end of the enlightenment kick.

Many other self-development programmes are not as sinister as generally believed. Insight, for instance, is a gentle, distant cousin of Exegesis, founded in the United States in 1978. "American cult courses alarm TV-am staff," ran a recent headline in a national paper. For TV-am's managing director Bruce Gynell had encouraged staff to attend Insight self-awareness courses. "Insight is about being caring, compassionate and concerned about other people," Gynell is quoted as saying. It is not inconceivable that this outlook could have advantageous business applications.

Insight courses — six days with about 150 participants — involve an initial outlay of £75 and a post-seminar "donation". "The largest contributions have been over £20,000, most pay £300 and about 6 per cent have been dissatisfied and had refunds," says the ebullient 30-year-old UK director, Ruth Lederman. She says 40,000 people have taken part in Insight worldwide and 1,500 in the UK since it started regularly in 1985. A prominent Harley Street doctor recommends it to his patients — "I have only gained benefit from it" — but nevertheless wishes to remain anonymous.

The course combines a variety of techniques from "mini lectures" and guided meditation to group interactions. They will not give specific examples: "that would be like giving away the punchline to a joke," says Lederman. "The seminar is about

We've ways of making you work



Insighters: Judy Tame and colleagues David Fishman (left) and Roy Sherman

bringing out excellence in individuals.

In the United States, whole companies have undergone the training; here, chunks of companies have taken part. Designer/supplier Janet Reger took the Insight course two years ago, while adjusting to her company's liquidation and an unhappy marriage. "Insight is the best thing that ever happened to me," she said. Two of her seven employees have now taken the course. "We make decisions more easily and express ourselves more clearly," says Reger. "Business is now very good."

Judy Tame, 33, a financial consultant to Allied Dunbar, went on the seminar in 1984. Now 12 people from her department of 30 have taken her lead. "It creates a happy, positive atmosphere," she said. "Tensions are solved more easily, and we have a clearer vision for pulling ourselves out of difficult patches."

The claims for Transcendental Meditation (TM) are equally startling. TM, which started in 1958, is a self-help technique popularized by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, former guru to the Beatles. Teachers now wear business suits and intense looks. They claim to be able to fly. "We are in the early stages of levitation and call it 'hopping,'" says conference administrator and TM teacher Richard Johnson.

TM is a simple, mental technique, practised while sitting twice daily for 20 minutes and using a sound from an available selection of mantras. Its teachers say it induces a state of deep rest during which the metabolic rate drops by 16 per cent and the body rids itself of accumulated tensions, emerging deeply refreshed. Fees are on a sliding scale according to income, and range from £65 to £245 for six hours of instruction in four sittings. Johnson claims that TM improves

mental clarity and also believes it reduces stress and the likelihood of illness. Dr Roger Chalmers, president of the British Association for the Medical Application of TM, says that more than 350 scientific studies conducted over the past 15 years support such assertions.

TM says some 3½ million people have taken part in its courses, including 150,000 in this country, 600 of whom, it claims, are doctors. A recent symposium held for the Society of Occupational Medicine "was greeted with enthusiasm," Johnson says.

Gordon Crompton, 32, managing director of Crompton Machine Company, did TM two years ago. "Feeling unwell after a stressful period in business," he said, "I was well-being and health improved. The tension has gone and I am able to cope much better." So he introduced it to his factory: and 35 per cent of the 50 employees now meditate. "Now they approach new projects positively," he says, "and we seem to be getting higher production figures for less effort."

Life Training is another programme that promises positive results. It claims 20,000 people have taken it worldwide since 1981; 1,200 in England since starting in 1984. The training, which costs £240, takes place over an intensive weekend, or over six evenings (£60). The brainchild of two US Episcopal priests,

'At first I thought they were a bunch of weirdos'

both trained therapists, Life Training is similar to Exegesis and Insight, and teacher David Templer dubs it "an experimental workshop." Using discussion, meditation, improvisation, theatre and games, the course is a synthesis of a range of psychological, philosophical and spiritual traditions.

Templer, who also works as a freelance marketing consultant, has found it helps him in the business world. "I am less combative and find I co-operate more easily."

Robert Stephens, 43, vice-president of Mellon-Pictet International Management, did the training three years ago. "I was feeling pretty sorry for myself at a personal and business level," he said. Initially he thought they were "a bunch of weirdos". Now he says he sees that the format is a catalyst for a more open and honest way of relating.

Not everyone, however, is convinced. Hans Eysenck, Professor Emeritus of Psychology at London University, says: "There is no evidence that such courses do any good and there are certain, albeit infrequent, cases when people have been harmed. So-called self-knowledge can be dangerous, particularly when it awakens neurotic fears, anxieties and stresses, as often happens."

"Many claims are made for these self-awareness programmes, none of which is substantiated by the evidence. They are cults in the same way as many forms of psychotherapy, such as schema therapy, are — and claims for these have not been substantiated either."

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A square deal for the square ring



BARBARA AMIEL

Last week a 15-year-old boy died after 52 seconds of a boxing match. It is said that the autopsy revealed a condition that predisposed a cerebral haemorrhage, but of course the death shocks all the same. Not surprisingly, the incident immediately renewed the campaign to have boxing banned.

Most schools have long jettisoned boxing from their sports curriculum and by now, children who want to take part in the sport have to join a local boxing club. The Downside Settlement is one such club, tucked away in a building opposite the railway arches in Bermondsey. It's a grey, depressed area with little street life, except the kind you want to avoid.

When I dropped by, a couple of evenings ago, 13-year-old Paul Carr was giving one of the three punching bags in the gym a nasty workout. Paul, a polite young man with arms and hands that seemed two sizes too large for him, lives in Sidcup, Kent. He had pestered the family about boxing since he was eight years old, explained his uncle, who alternates with the boy's father to drive him in every evening.

Paul, who reached the finals of the National Schoolboys Championship in Derby last year, was too busy to say very much. When pressed, he admitted that the boxing life had the drawback of making hamburgers and chips off limits. He knew about the death of Joe Sticken, but it could happen to anyone, he shrugged. I didn't pursue it.

I must confess that I rarely can find any inherent logic in the arguments to ban boxing. It's not that I'm a mad fan of the sport myself, you understand. In fact, when I switched on the television set last Tuesday night and came upon the Leonard-Hagler middleweight championship fight, I hid my eyes when they actually hit each other hard, just the way I do when people start fighting in films.

My problem with the anti-boxing movement is that it doesn't seem to have the courage to say why it really wants to ban boxing. The popular reason given for banning boxing is the protection of our children. But boxing has virtually the lowest fatality rate of any sport, with the

possible exception of table tennis. In the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys Monitor of fatal accidents for the years 1984-85, issued last month, boxing doesn't even rate a mention. Riding and motor sports lead the list.

I couldn't find any statistical data on injuries, but the consensus seems to be that in terms of numbers of serious injuries, riding and rugby are probably the greatest offenders.

If the physical well-being of our children is the motivation for banning boxing, it seems inconsistent not to ban more physically dangerous sports. Of course, a person in his private life and society in his public life may make arbitrary choices, and there is no duty on society to ban all activities that cause death or injury once it decides to ban one. All the same, there is a general feeling that consistency has a moral component.

Some people would like to see protective headgear worn during boxing matches. This has been tried in a number of countries and generally abandoned because of the erroneous sense of security headgear gives. Boxers wearing this protection generally move their heads closer together, which is dangerous. Helmets give protection against facial abrasions, but little protection against the countercoup injury that causes brain damage when the head moves one way and the brain another.

Listening to the arguments against boxing, I was struck by the chord of Bloomsbury effectiveness in it all. The real reason, I thought, as I listened to a friend explain that it was

"wrong" to box, is that our brave new society doesn't like the idea of combat sports. Listen carefully to an anti-boxing enthusiast and within no time there will be a reference to the "uncivilized" nature of gladiatorial endeavours.

Uncivilized? Human history has been decided by physical combat. The fact that England is today a free country because some people were willing to engage in physical combat ought to speak for itself. If nature had been created in some different way, so that combat was not an essential element of our existence, the argument might have some force, but as it is, it is an argument *à rebours*.

Paul Carr's mother doesn't object to her son boxing, but she hasn't gone to watch him fight, either. I understand. A mother's natural instinct is protective and none of us would happily see our offspring punched in the face any more than we would be enthusiastic about them jumping out of a plane and not opening their parachute for 20 seconds, which I understand is the essence of sky-diving.

Would I be happy if a child of mine were to aim for the life of a professional boxer? No I would not. I'd prefer him to quietly compose sonnets, or study physics, but then I would also be most unhappy about a child of mine who wanted to be a government regulator or censor or join some similar profession.

Finally, I can't help thinking that there is a distinct strain of upper middle-class paternalism in all this. A feeling that the working classes should better themselves in ways closer to an elitist ethic.

But not all human beings are blessed with bookish or mathematical talents. Some people can taste excellence only through the skills combat requires. Let them. Combat is about more than dishing out punishment. It is about courage.

I watched Paul Carr as he practised. I don't know whether he will ever be a great boxer. But as I saw the discipline and concentration he voluntarily brought to his chosen field, I thought, there's a boy to be proud of. Box on.

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Letters, page 13

A remedy for doctors' disease

My father, a GP in a Yorkshire village, built his house overlooking a cemetery so he could have a daily reminder of his ultimate achievement. When I visited him, he would say, "Let's take a stroll amid my mistakes". And, as we walked between the headstones, he taught me lessons omitted from my formal education. Mortality, he reminded me, is an incurable disease which afflicts all patients and must be treated, not as an enemy to be fought on every front, but as an awkward ally who has occasionally to be appeased.

The lesson re-emerges in a book published this week, Glin Bennett's *The Bound and the Doctor* (Secker and Warburg, £17.50). It is a critical exploration of the ethos of our profession. Doctors, he concludes, use their power and status to distance themselves not just from their patients'

feelings — and their own — but from the dreaded implications of mortality. The professional ethos also helps disguise the professional pursuit of power, though we sometimes catch a glimpse of what lies underneath, as we did during the harassment of Wendy Savage.

Dr Bennett catalogues the effects the ethos has on those who work under its protection: the high rate of suicide, the high incidence of drug addiction and alcoholism — the junior health minister, Mrs Edwina Currie, said on Monday that the number of people in the medical profession suffering from cirrhosis of the liver was three times the national average.

Young doctors protect themselves from the harsh impact of suffering with emotional barriers learnt from their elders. But the barriers don't just protect, they isolate. "Doctors seldom need any help with their thinking or

FIRST PERSON

Dr Michael O'Donnell

rational functions," Bennett says, "since these have been developed to a high degree in their training. Where feeling and empathy are concerned, most doctors have a good deal to learn."

This lack of empathy leads to an authoritarian approach resented by the patients who, in increasing numbers, seek solace beyond the fringe of orthodoxy. Though they remain sceptical about "fringe" treatments, they find its practitioners offer spiritual support unavailable from mainstream doctors.

If we accept Dr Bennett's diagnosis — and I do — the only treatment likely to succeed is a radical change in the

ways in which we select medical students and train doctors. Medical schools now take high academic achievers but — while such people help advance the frontiers of knowledge — I'm not convinced a person needs to be all that clever to heal the sick. It's a job which depends less on A-level ability than on common sense and an ability to learn from experience.

Medical schools could make a start by recruiting a higher proportion of mature students more likely to have suffered the "wounds" assumed by the maxim "Only the wounded physician heals". And doctors could spend more time teaching one another skills that might help them understand their patients.

"Holistic medicine" is a current fashion but an old idea. The best medicine has always been holistic, with doctors using every technical

skill at their command to restore unhappy individuals to some sort of harmony with the world.

The object, as I learnt amid the headstones, is not to wage relentless war against mortality, but to seek to improve the quality of life of those who suffer from it. And that, as Dr Bennett makes all too plain, means abandoning many of our hierarchical attitudes.

Those attitudes are so pervasive that the good doctor himself is not immune to infection. Though he complains that women doctors still have to deny their womanliness if they wish to be accepted by the medical establishment, the pronouns he uses for "doctor" are invariably "he" or "his". It's a neat example of the way our brotherhood conditions even the most sceptical of its members.

Read the early signs

TALKBACK

From C.L.S. Woolgan, Special Needs Tutor, Parkway, Glade Park, Romford, Essex
Natalie — Graham's article, "When eight was nearly too late," (Friday Page, March 27), may prove salutary if parents reading it are encouraged to believe that three is not too early.

Children begin to be aware of words even before this age. In many homes, even without the guidance of so called experts, they arrive at a stage of reading readiness through stories, rhymes and family games. Moreover, excellent pre-reading material can be purchased commercially. Advice is gladly given, by a host of state schools, on pre-school activities that will enable parents to give the right sort of help.

Private education, of itself, does not guarantee success. Some private schools, as encountered by Mrs Graham, play safe by insisting that

certain standards of achievement have already been met before pupils are accepted. In short, confirmation seems to be required that the work has already been done for them!

From Dale Tipney, Frome Road, Southwick, Trowbridge, Wiltshire

My two sons, aged eight and six, attend the local state school. Both read very well, have a sound grasp of various mathematical concepts and even know the rudiments of grammar. Neither my children nor their school are unique — I have friends all over the country who could say the same. Admittedly, the school has a policy of "shared reading" (again not uncommon). This means that the child brings home reading to do every night with a parent. I am amazed that someone who professes such concern with her child's education as Ms

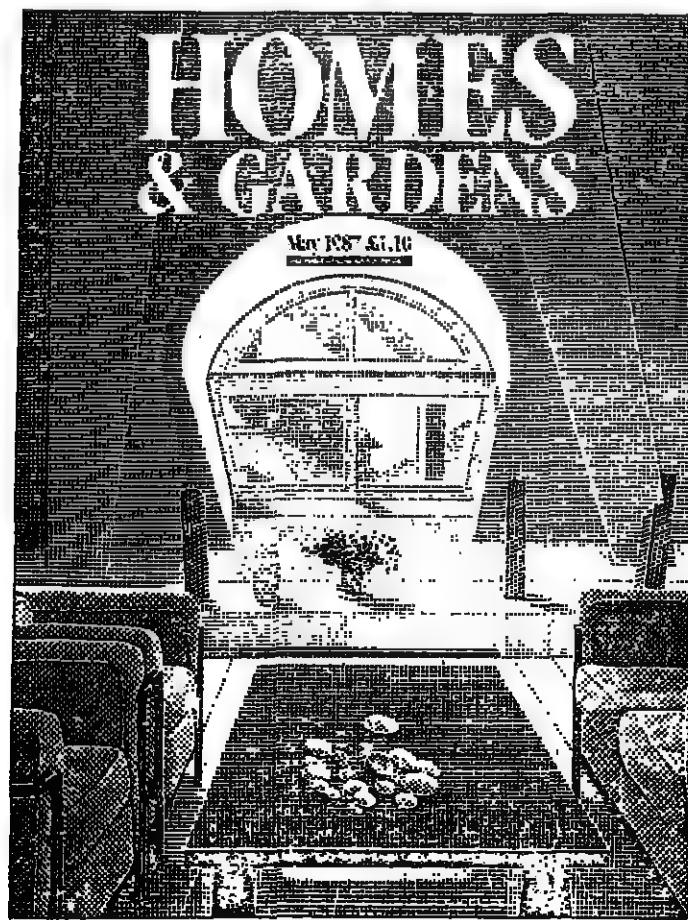
Graham does has not been regularly reading with her daughter since she started school. She seems to think that children can be educated by simply writing cheques.

Simon Redmayne, Serjeant's Inn, Temple, London

Barbara Amiel ("A pound of flesh", April 3) seeks to reinforce her argument that Mrs Whitehead and not the Stems should have been given custody of Melissa by suggesting that in contract law it is a principle that if things go sour, the parties should be put back in their initial position as far as possible. On the contrary, the courts strive to place the party not in breach in the same position as if the contract had been performed.

Mrs Amiel's moral arguments may, in some circumstances, affect the application of this principle. However, in the case of the court based its decision on what was best for Melissa.

MORE HOMES MORE GARDENS MORE STYLE



An all-white flat: six designers give their views

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THE TIMES DIARY

Getting the message

Jocelyn Stevens, the newspaper executive turned director of the Royal College of Art, has been dealt a snub. British Design and Art Direction, representing the country's top designers, has just presented its gold award to Gert Dumbor, the RCA's professor of graphic design, whose contract Stevens has decided not to renew. Dumbor gets it for his innovative signposting in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. What's more, two silver awards go to RCA students of Dumbor's — I reported last month that some were in the running. Edward Booth-Clibborn, the D & DA chairman, tells me the silver awards — the first won by students in the 25 years they have been presented — are "evidence of Dumbor's outstanding ability".

Members only

Sir Brian Rix was wondering yesterday what terrible fate might befall him after accepting an invitation by Labour MP Jack Ashley to address a rally of lobbyists for the disabled in Westminster Hall — part of the Palace of Westminster. Only after Ashley had called Sir Brian to his feet to fill a gap between MP speakers was it pointed out that, by custom, only MPs and peers are allowed to speak in the hall. Ashley told me he had few regrets about his slip: "If we end up in the Tower, I trust our supporters will supply us with champagne."

Poetic licence

Visiting the Edward Thomas exhibition at the Imperial War Museum yesterday, Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, was surprised to be waylaid by the wife of poet Stephen Spender. It was not poetry she wanted to discuss; simply to thank him for cutting through the red tape over her driving licence. It turns out that she wrote to Baker, as her local MP when he represented Marylebone, after Swansea had kept her waiting for six months. A few phone calls from Baker — and the licence arrived next day.

Parole pad

Northern Ireland's newest potential des res, Armagh Jail, went on the market yesterday for £185,000. The 200-year-old prison closed a year ago when the province's few women prisoners were moved elsewhere. Planners "assist its marble front must be retained and have ruled out conversion into a shopping centre, but it is hoped that a housing association will buy it. Raymond Murray, for 20 years the prison chaplain, says it could look "quite nice" when the bars have been removed.



Don't know?

The SDP leaves no avenue unexplored in its quest for the middle ground on Britain's nuclear defence policy. A circular signed by David Owen and addressed simply to "CND" asks, among other questions: "If you were planning Britain's defence strategy for the next 10-15 years, which approach would you be most inclined to follow?" CND was asked to tick one of three possible answers. A spokesman tells me it did not bother replying.

● The latest entrant in the ratings war on Detroit TV: *Funny Fathoms*, in which six Catholic priests swap anecdotes about presbytery life on subjects ranging from bats in the belfry to bishops' mitres.

Not many mind

The prize for this week's least sensational press release must go to the Commons Scottish Affairs Committee. After listing its 13 members and their constituencies, the hand-out announced: "At its meeting this morning, the Committee, having considered various representations on the matter, decided not to conduct an inquiry into the proposal for a rail crossing of Dornoch Firth".

Benefat

An Aylesbury GP complains to me that the DHSS is encouraging the nation to run to fat. Last week a patient asked him for written confirmation that she had put on weight so the local DHSS could give her a grant to cover the cost of buying new clothes. On her own admission her obesity was due to overeating. "Do they have it in mind to make grants to those who eat the need to smoke," the doctor asks.

PHS

The reluctant reformers

by George Schöpflin

The amount of Soviet attention devoted to Czechoslovakia in the last few months suggests that Mikhail Gorbachev attaches great significance to his much-delayed visit to Prague, though some might wonder why. After all, Czechoslovakia's economic and political stagnation is no worse than it has been for several years, in terms of launching reforms, Hungary might make a much better test-bed.

There are two probable reasons for Gorbachev's anxiety to see changes in Czechoslovakia. The event most closely associated with the suppression of reform in Eastern Europe was the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia and suppression of the Prague Spring. By going to Prague he is signalling that a new phase of Soviet-East European relations has begun.

Secondly, Gorbachev has already made it clear that he expects the East Europeans to become a vital supplier of technically sophisticated manufactured goods to the Soviet Union. Czechoslovakia is one of the most industrialized countries in the Warsaw Pact but, since the Dubcek era, its industrial base has shown little progress. So Gorbachev will tell his hosts to introduce the kind of economic changes that will help them to catch up.

The Czechoslovak leadership

has evidently been given plenty of notice in this direction. This explains the ludicrous sight of President Husak solemnly standing up in the Spanish Hall of the presidential palace in Prague and intoning his conversion to "reform". If anyone has personified the most rigid rejection of reform in any shape or form in Eastern Europe, it is Husak. Indeed, during his 18 years in office, the very word has been banished from the country's political vocabulary.

But now reform is being pressed upon every East European government and even Husak, it seems, expects to be taken seriously when garbed in the new political fashion. His proposals so far, however, are decidedly modest.

There will be some changes in the management of the economy and in general administration. One new law seeks to redefine the relationship between industrial managers and party officials and give enterprises greater autonomy. The work of central bodies — presumably the branch ministries and the planning office — would be redefined accordingly. On the political side, a magnifying glass is needed to make out any change. The party, says Husak, "should give greater attention to the

political and psychological preparation for the changes".

In reality, this is barely paying lip-service to change. Neither party officials nor managers have any incentive to change their ways; during the Husak period, they have become exceedingly comfortable in the unimaginative way they have been able to run (and as good as ruin) the Czechoslovak economy.

In the short term, though, even this minimalist strategy might produce some benefits for Czechoslovakia. In Hungary, now the scene of a much more serious reform debate, the microscopic movements favoured in Czechoslovakia have long ago been tried and abandoned as insufficient. The Hungarians recognize that change means changes in the structure of power, rather than tinkering with the economy.

In this context, the proposals made public by Ruzsov Nyers, the central committee member still remembered as the "father" of the 1960s reforms, are the most startling. Because the politically all-powerful Communist Party pervades the entire economy and can undermine the economic rationality of decision making, Nyers suggests that its power be

taken away and transferred to the People's Patriotic Front.

The Front, as in other communist states, is the nominal umbrella organization for all social and political bodies — trades unions, the youth movement, and so on — other than the party itself. Further, the Front is responsible for organizing parliamentary elections. Nyers's solution, then, is straightforward: the Communist Party would become just one organization among many and its authority would depend on its ability to convince public opinion of the validity of its policies.

Not that the reformers in Hungary are having it entirely their own way. In response to Nyers, János Berecz, a conservative senior party figure, has said that although he is in favour of reform — who isn't? — the Communist Party must not lose its dominance. Berecz accepts that Hungary is a complex society, with a wide range of conflicting interests, but that cannot become a reason for the party yielding power.

The suns up Gorbachev's dilemma. The conservatives will not let go without a fight. They have had plenty of time to build up the experience of how to go about it, whether in Prague or Budapest — or, for that matter, Moscow.

The author is lecturer in politics at the London School of Economics.

Robin Oakley on the significance of next month's council elections

A real guide to opinion



scrap domestic rates and replace them with a community charge payable by all adults could figure in the campaigns. Since there are expected to be more financial losers than winners under such a system, there is danger of an anti-government reaction. The Conservatives fear, too, a fall-out from the recent row between the agriculture and environment ministries which managed to give the impression, wrongly, that the government was about to start concreting over Britain's farmlands. Farmers still feel bruised about the cut in quotas as the government, after many years of encouraging them to produce more, seeks to do its bit towards curbing the EEC food mountains. There will be some nervousness

on the Conservative side that traditional Tory voters will react against a rate support grant distribution that has done less for them and more for many Labour-controlled inner cities.

But it is the Alliance, performance that will be the key factor in these local elections. The Alliance surge in recent opinion polls has done more to upset Tory calculations than anything else. What Mrs Thatcher needs to know above all before deciding on an early election is that the Alliance surge has bumped up against the ceiling. The latest couple of polls suggest that that stage may have been reached. But more solid evidence is required. Significantly, the Tory leadership believes, the Conservatives

Gains and losses in local government by-elections since 1983 general election

	Won	Held	Gained	Lost	Net
Conservative	513	420	93	309	-216
Labour	468	368	100	80	+20
Alliance	462	140	322	51	+271
Independent	54	32	2	15	-13
Others	12	4	8	10	-2

Figures cover by-elections in county, regional, London borough, metropolitan and non-metropolitan district councils up to April 2, 1987, in England, Wales and Scotland

By-election results since 1986 local government elections

	Won	Held	Gained	Lost	Net
Conservative	102	78	24	48	-22
Labour	79	65	14	17	-3
Alliance	78	23	55	19	+36
Independent	10	7	3	19	-16
Others	1	1	1	2	-1

Why royalty must stay nationalized

missioners are among Britain's largest landowners, owning 477,000 acres of agricultural land in England and 88,000 acres in Scotland, together with a portfolio of prime London sites that include Trafalgar Square and large blocks of Regent Street, St James's, Jermyn Street and Carlton House Terrace. Annual income is about £40 million, yielding a net profit of about £20 million which is handed over to the Treasury.

The Crown Estate occupies a curious constitutional position; it is neither fully state property nor yet the private property of the monarch. Traditionally the lands are surrendered by the monarch to Parliament at the beginning of each reign, supposedly as part of the arrangements for the Civil List, which is set at £5.6 million for the current year.

George III was allowed to keep two major estates, the Duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster. The Prince of Wales is of course already part-privatized, taking all his personal income of about £750,000 a year from the Duchy of Cornwall, and surrendering one-quarter of its net income, currently about £250,000 a year, to the Treasury in lieu of income tax.

The Duchy of Lancaster provides the Privy Purse, in effect a personal income for the Queen, now about £1.3 million a year.

From her Lancaster revenues the Queen refunds to the Treasury the Civil List payments for the Dukes of Kent and Gloucester and Princess Alexandra, reducing this year's true Treasury bill for the Civil List to £5.2 million.

But the Civil List is a fraction of the true cost of monarchy, and covers only immediate operational costs like office expenses and the salaries of Palace staff. The real annual cost is nearer £40 million when a variety of other items tucked into the defence and environment budgets are included; providing the Queen's Flight, operating the royal yacht Britannia, and maintaining the castles and palaces of Windsor, Buckingham and Holyrood, for example.

In the past year the cost of the monarchy has doubled to about £80 million because of a one-off purchase of two new HS 146 aircraft for the Queen's Flight and a major refit for Britannia. It will be back again to £40 million for the present year.

The Prince of Wales is no doubt

have begun to advance lately in local government by-elections in councils where the Alliance either holds or shares power. A few years ago the Alliance had clean hands compared with the other parties, but its recent advances have meant that Alliance councillors, too, have had to take hard and unpopular decisions and face the consequences. They are beginning to look more like other politicians. Whereas last year the Alliance advanced remorselessly in local government by-elections even when it was not performing well in national opinion polls, just lately it has been the Tories who have been doing better in local government than their national figures suggest. In March they picked up 35.5 per cent of the vote in council by-elections, to 31.5 for the Alliance and 30.4 for Labour. In the five months from last May to September the Tories were running third in such contests.

The Tories admit that they will lose seats overall on May 7. They are defending seats last contested in 1983, when they were on a post-Falklands high and achieved the rare phenomenon of a swing to the government of the day. But they believe that they could wrest Nottingham from Labour, which clings on by a three-seat majority. They are also bending every effort to hang on to Solihull, the last metropolitan authority in Conservative hands. They have hopes in Brighton in the south, and in Sefton, Trafford and Wirral in the north-west.

The Alliance is confidently forecasting a gain of at least 400 seats overall. It expects to win control of Liverpool city council, while the Liberals are temporarily in charge following the disqualification of many Labour councillors, and of Hastings, Cheltenham, Eastleigh, St Albans, South Somerset, Congleton, Southend and Ryedale.

Labour has made no public claims, but is expecting to win control of at least a further five councils.

When the results have been analysed, Mrs Thatcher will either have to decide on June, or stand the nation down from election fever for a few months. The difficulty is that, whatever the analysts say about the potential Tory vote, any significant Alliance advance on May 7 could give the Liberals and the SDP another boost, which would take them into a June contest with increased credibility.

May 7 will help Mrs Thatcher in her lonely choice. But it will not take all the guesswork and gamble out of the decision.

mindful of the possibility that some future government less well disposed towards the Crown than the present one might gather all those extraneous costs together in order to exercise greater control. Labour MPs have in the past occasionally floated the idea of a Government Department of the Crown for that very purpose, but it has never found much favour.

The British Royal Family are puppets and prisoners only to the extent that it is an integral part of the unwritten constitution, developed over several centuries, that the Crown has little direct power but a great deal of indirect influence.

Going private is unlikely to change that; indeed it is more likely to make the Crown more remote and less relevant, simply by turning the sovereign into just another landowner and loosening the bonds between Crown, Parliament and people which, although complex and vague, are an essential part of the intertwining constitutional structure.

Besides, if King Charles III needs a new aeroplane, or the Palace needs re-roofing, or there is any other exceptional item of expenditure beyond the means of his estates, he will still have to ask the government of the day for the money. His subjects, it must be presumed, would not wish him to feel he had to skip to balance the books of a cut-price private crown.

Alan Hamilton

John Rae

Leading with their heads

In all our agonizing over the failings of the education system there has been little discussion of the quality of leadership in our schools. It is assumed that if we get the conditions right, bad schools will become good ones. The experience of the independent sector should dispel that illusion. Famous schools with all the advantages of generous resources, well-motivated pupils and strong parental support have nevertheless declined sharply when the head was weak or uninspiring.

Now ministers are considering a national staff college for heads and a flying squad of 500 teachers, chosen for "outstanding leadership qualities" who will be drafted into problem schools on a short-term basis. The idea of a pedagogical Sweeney with the headmaster of Eton swooping on an unsuspecting school in Brent has distinct possibilities. I think I shall volunteer. What fun to turn a school upside down and then get out before the staff have time to organize a petition demanding your removal.

But as a practical proposition, the idea strikes me as unconvincing, not least because the belief that there are 500 headteachers in the country with "outstanding leadership qualities" is remarkably optimistic.

The lack of high calibre headteachers, particularly in secondary schools, is one of the least publicized causes of our educational malaise. I know that heads of comprehensive schools face problems that would pole-axe most heads in the independent sector. But there are startling differences in the performance of individual comprehensive schools, and this must have something to do with the quality of leadership.

Sister Genevieve of the Order of St Vincent de Paul is principal of one of the largest maintained schools in the United Kingdom. St Louise's is an all-girls comprehensive, 2,380 strong, in the heart of nationalist Belfast on the Falls Road, within a stone's throw of Andersonstown police station and Milltown cemetery, with its monuments to the "war dead" of the republican cause.

Most of its pupils come from the sort of deprived inner-city environment, including the notorious Divis Flats, that in London or Liverpool would be regarded as an excuse for a school's poor performance and low morale. Yet when I visited St Louise's recently I knew at once that I was in a very good school. The whole place had a spring in its step. Pupils and teachers were lively, smart and courteous. They were proud of their school: no graffiti, no sour faces, virtually no truancy. Eighty-five per cent of the girls stay on in the open access sixth form; the figure for ILEA comprehensives is 32 per cent.

The usual explanation for bad inner-city comprehensives is the lack of resources and the disadvantaged background of the pupils. But if that is the whole

truth, how is it possible to run a highly successful school in one deprived area but not another?

Sister Genevieve explains it in terms of attitudes and policies: the Vincentian ideal of respecting the dignity of every individual; the close family and community ties; equal pride in all examination results, whether in typing or higher mathematics. But attitudes and policies do not appear by accident. Someone has to set the goals and inspire the community to achieve them.

Precisely what it is that distinguishes a successful head from the run of the mill is not always easy to identify. The first two headmasters I served under illustrate the point. One was a powerful autocrat who delegated little and had his finger on every aspect of the school's life. He was a monarch of the old regime and had been known to interview young masters from the back of a horse. The other was unassuming, almost at times unnoticed. He delegated everything he could and appeared to have no little interest in educational issues that he read *The Times* during meetings of the Headmasters' Conference.

They could hardly have been more different yet both presided over a golden age in the school's history. Sister Genevieve is too immersed in everyday realities to think about a golden age but there is no doubt that, under her own brand of leadership, her school flourishes.

She does not run her school from the back of a horse, or from behind *The Times*. She is tough, shrewd and passionate. She delegates and knows what is going on. She is not overawed by the problems on her doorstep; in an area of high unemployment she has been remarkably successful in seeing that her pupils find jobs when they leave school; and, although an Irish nationalist, she has the courage and good sense to tell the IRA to keep its distance.

How can three headteachers, so different in character and style, achieve the same end — a lively, happy and successful school? The answer must lie in their ability to inspire and motivate others.

Sister Genevieve brings out the best in teachers and pupils. And that, I recall, was what the two headmasters had in common. They inspired in me, as a young master, the desire to do well, to earn their respect and win their praise.

Can heads be taught how to motivate others? I think it is a gift. Management training in a staff college may help to develop it or compensate for its absence but cannot conjure it out of the air. A staff college would certainly raise the quality of leadership, but its motto should be the warning carved over the door of a Victorian school: "What nature hath withheld, this institution cannot supply".

The author, formerly headmaster of Westminster School, is now Director of the Laura Ashley Foundation.

Henry Stanhope

A task force to Tokyo

Those who are examining the opinion polls for signs of the general election are likely to do so in vain. What they really should be looking at is the progress of the trade war with Japan.

Mrs Thatcher has clearly no more faith in the opinion polls than I have. My family has in recent months pledged its support to the Conservative Party, the Labour Party, the Liberal Party and Seventh-day Adventists. We would have done no less for the Social Democrats had they called. The best time to do so is on a Saturday afternoon during a rugby international on television (an opportunity temporarily lost, I'm afraid), when our affirmative is likely to be swift and unequivocal. The Prime Minister understands this very well.

The Japanese are a very different matter. For the past 20 years we have bought our cameras, watches, televisions, radios, record-players, cars, kitchen knives, fibre-tip pens and very much else besides, from Nippon.

The traffic has not been entirely one-way. They have in turn bought our factories, large houses, restaurants, land, a golf course and at least one school, and now our paintings and the Duchess of Windsor's jewellery.

Some 22,000 of them now live in Britain, importing their *modus operandi* to our companies and borrowing our accents in return. There are Japanese children in South Wales who sound like Harry Secombe. (Did you know, incidentally, that the late Indira Gandhi once said that she felt more at home in Wales than anywhere else in Britain, because Welshmen and Indians spoke English with the same kind of accent?)

The point I am making though is that we have, until now, accepted the position with equanimity, regarding the incoming tide with the sang-froid that we learnt from Canute. "If you can't beat them, join them" has been the philosophy underlying our approach to Japanese imperialism.

We have actually pleaded with them to come here, subsidizing their factories to ensure that they do. Trade unionists who would

rather have joined the Tolpuddle Martyrs than do what they are told by British managers have gone to their keep fit classes, worn their company blazers and even agreed to eat in the same canteen as the general manager. It is only now, when West has got used to meeting East in defiance of Rudyard Kipling, that the Prime Minister has turned, like Boudicca, on her overlord. Why should this be?

The simplest explanation is that enough has proved enough. The lion has eventually tired of having his tail tweaked by all these neat little men in their navy blue pinstripes and decided it was time to bare its teeth at them. The final indignity, according to this argument, was when they moved into the City — which of course had tempted fate by loosening its old school tie. I always knew no good would come of it. The effect has been that of removing one's mosquito net in the jungle, thus exposing oneself to a lot of foreign bodies who are no respecters of Harrow men.

But I have another explanation. What if Mrs Thatcher is playing for the Japanese Factor? A war in which no one gets hurt, apart perhaps from the odd junior minister, flung like a sacrificial lamb upon the altar of Mammon, has an appeal which few political advisers could resist. Not only does it divert the voters' eyes from the problems that are piling up at home, but it places all the blame upon Japan. Let Mr Nakasone bear the brunt.

The Prime Minister does not even have to win it. If M Chirac, Chancellor Kohl or President Reagan declared war, his electorate would demand a total victory. In Britain it is defeat in which we glory. Give or take a few football supporters from the Stretford End at Manchester, we are a nation of extremely gallant losers.

All that the government needs to do is to keep in there and not let go. If it can fight the good fight, it may hold on to eternal life — as St Paul more or less put it to the Thessalonians. The mistake that the Thessalonians made was to pay too much attention to the opinion polls.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

LABOUR'S IRISH JIG

Mr Peter Archer, Labour's principal spokesman on Northern Ireland, yesterday slipped a new version of the party's policy into the public domain. It has the hallmarks of an ingenious compromise which achieves the remarkable feat of putting inside the same agreed policy two apparently irreconcilable aims. It is work of a master craftsman in the Wilsonian mould.

As the left of the party has long enjoyed pointing out, Labour's policy has for years suffered from a logical inconsistency. It advocated the ultimate reunification of the island but allowed that this could only take place with the consent of the unionist majority in Northern Ireland. From this position, the present Labour leadership has supported the Anglo-Irish Agreement and Mr Kinnock has been a tough rhetorical opponent of Provisional Sinn Féin.

The left has insisted, however, that since unionist consent was plainly not forthcoming and never likely to be, the policy was a contradiction. The commitment to unification was hypocritical and easy to make since no Labour government was likely to have to act on it. This argument has been bubbling gently inside a joint study group from the parliamentary party and the party's national executive since not long after the last election.

Earlier this year, the left suggested that the commitment to seek unionist consent be altered to a search for a "significant degree of consent". To judge by the text of yesterday's announcement, Mr Archer and his front bench colleagues seem to have stifled this. But they have won their victory only by endorsing a wording which sounds more aggressive towards unionism than previous formulations.

FROM WHERE A FUTURE TASK FORCE?

Five years ago the Falklands Task Force set sail for the South Atlantic on an operation whose success depended heavily on Britain's shipyards and its mercantile marine. The speed and efficiency with which cruise liners and container ships were converted for the expedition remains a remarkable testament to the industry and skills of our workshops and repair yards.

On today's Spectrum page we record the steep decline since then. The number of British owned and registered merchantmen has been almost halved, while in 1986 the total tonnage went down by nearly one-third. According to one recent estimate, the number of ships could be down to below 100 in less than 10 years' time if the decline continues at its present rate.

It is not so much that ships have been scrapped. The most characteristic trend in recent years has been the foreign registration of British hulls, enabling owners to hire cheaper foreign labour.

It is easy to see why they do so. Competition is fierce in an over-subscribed and over-subsidized industry, and owners have to cut costs or go to the wall.

THE ROAD TO FORGIVENESS

President Herzog was voicing a very general Jewish sentiment when he declared at the start of his state visit to West Germany that Israel — and indeed the whole Jewish diaspora — could neither forgive Germany nor forget the Nazi Holocaust. To Christians, however, nurtured in a tradition which regards loving and forgiving one's enemies as a mark of true religious grace, it seemed a sharp saying. It seems no less sharp five days later, as President Herzog's visit draws to a close.

Yet it is worth looking a little more closely at the concept of forgiveness outside the Christian tradition. When Jews talk about not forgiving Germany, as they still do despite the passing of the years, they appear to mean something other than taking revenge. It should be noted that President Herzog also described his visit to West Germany as a step on the long road towards reconciliation. Therein lies the missing clue. For him forgiveness lies at the end of that road, not at the start of it.

Jews are generally alarmed and irritated when urged to "forgive and forget", to act as if the Holocaust never really happened. To some of them, that is tantamount to acceptance of the revisionist history

The party leadership has two purposes which need to be spliced together. It wishes, honourably, to recognise and support the unionist right to constitutional self-determination as enshrined in laws upheld by several past Labour governments. It is supported in this by party supporters drawn from the protestant and unionist community in Northern Ireland. But it also has to placate those on the left who more or less openly back Provisional Sinn Féin; the central demand of that group is for a British withdrawal from the north which bypasses unionist objections.

As if this was not enough, Mr Archer and his party leader have two subsidiary aims. They need a policy which allows them to operate the Hillsborough Agreement if they form a government. But they also need to keep lines open to the unionist MPs, who might just hold the balance in a hung parliament.

Mr Archer's deputy, Mr Stuart Bell, made a speech recently which suggested some concessions to unionist concerns. But otherwise the front bench team has chosen to respond to the most immediate threat with a document phrased to suggest that as little notice as possible will be taken of unionist objections.

Two of Mr Archer's statements bear decoding. He said yesterday: "the fact that there will be consent before there is any constitutional transformation does not mean there is a veto over political discussions and political initiatives and experiments." This is presumably to be taken by the left and its nationalist and republican allies as meaning: "reunification will proceed as discreetly as possible until such time as unionists and everyone else come to realise that its a fait accompli".

But, aside from the problems of British industry, there are important implications for defence. The bulk of the logistic responsibility during the Falklands war, 8,000 miles from home and 4,000 miles from the nearest friendly port, was borne by the Merchant Navy for the simple reason that the Royal Navy could not manage on its own.

For many years the strength of the Royal Navy has been calculated and planned on the assumption that in wartime, civilian ships could be requisitioned for Queen and country. Channel ferries to convey troops and their equipment, other cargo ships for long-haul operations, deep sea trawlers to be converted into minehunters and even container ships which could be used as flat-top carriers, all form part of Whitehall's contingency planning in the event of national crisis.

Two years ago, however, the Ministry of Defence sounded the alarm bells after watching one vessel after another drop out of the merchant fleet — together with their crews. Last year's Defence White Paper sounded a slightly less discouraging note.

A review of the latest position indicated that there were still enough ships left to undertake naval tasks should war break out again — the exception being the worrying shortage of deep sea trawlers for countermeasures against mines.

But this is to assume that the decline is not to continue at the present steep rate — or indeed to grow worse. It is also to assume that, if war broke out, the ships would be where they were wanted. If a major war occurred, one which placed far higher demands on our resources than did the Falklands campaign, the Government would need ships and trained crews on hand at once. There would be little advantage in having a ship in the Pacific if it were needed to work the Eastern Atlantic in a hurry. Moreover, the crews would ideally be British crews.

The Government should address the problem of our merchant fleet's decline as a matter of some priority. There is an urgent need to explore ways in which the business of staying in British shipping could be made more attractive to owners and their crews.

Two years ago, however, the Ministry of Defence sounded the alarm bells after watching one vessel after another drop out of the merchant fleet — together with their crews. Last year's Defence White Paper sounded a slightly less discouraging note.

Justice is what is due, and the unmerciful should not be criticized for claiming what is theirs. Furthermore, the victims of the Holocaust have no voice with which to grant their absolution. Who can speak for them? The President of Israel does not appear to believe that the State of Israel has that

accomplish". The words do not have to mean this, but they are open to that interpretation.

Mr Archer also said to unionists: "whether you regard this as a step down the road to unification you need not be afraid that if you get further down the road that there will be an open gate at the end of it." In other words: "when we come down to it we will not allow the fait accompli to force you into something you do not want." Unionists are left to judge the credibility of that assurance in the light of the other assertion quoted above.

On one level, the Labour statement is shrewd public politics. There is widespread public disenchantment with unionism on the mainland. Labour's travails in committee need, however to be kept in proportion — and not just because the party's chances of being in government next time do not look rosy.

Taken into government, the policy outlined yesterday would not force a Labour cabinet to behave any differently from its predecessors. It would be able to carry on the established lines of British policy which have been shared by successive governments since the early 1970s and which are now dominated by the existence of the Hillsborough Agreement.

Future governments will over the next few years have to take major decisions, some of which can already be listed. There may have to be action against Provisional Sinn Féin. Decisions on Diplock courts await reconsideration, as do further moves to encourage unionist acceptance of the Agreement. But all of those items are placed on the agenda by the history of the last few years and not by the laboured deliberations of party caucus.

aging note. A review of the latest position indicated that there were still enough ships left to undertake naval tasks should war break out again — the exception being the worrying shortage of deep sea trawlers for countermeasures against mines.

The latter would be quite foreign to current practice in animal care. Every woman has the right to decline to be tested for anything and this is exercised from time to time in those situations where a positive test might be associated with a recommendation for termination (e.g., Down's Syndrome).

The cost effectiveness of a number of tests such as those for syphilis may be challenged, but not to have offered such a test could be regarded as negligent.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, in association with representatives from sister professional bodies, is examining the impact of Aids on all aspects of maternity care and reproductive medicine. HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) status in pregnancy is unique among these, in so far as it is the only situation where the knowledge of a positive blood test in a symptomatic individual could potentially be of benefit to her as well as enabling her to make decisions about her unborn child.

More information is needed to assess the impact of pregnancy on the progression of Aids-related conditions.

Yours faithfully, C. N. HUDSON, Chairman, Subcommittee on Problems of Aids in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, NW1, March 26.

Ferry disaster
From Mr David Crouch, MP for Canterbury (Conservative).
Sir, The article by your Transport Correspondent (April 3) on the public inquiry into the Zebrugga disaster raises some very disturbing thoughts.

I think that everyone is agreed that operation procedures of these vessels have got to be re-examined and much stricter application of these procedures and their supervision ensured.

The most worrying comment by your correspondent is the suggestion that supporters of these vessels argue that "recommendations for drastic design changes could lead to higher fares, slower turn-round, damage to cross-Channel trade, and much lower profits".

Is the question of higher fares and lower profits to be taken into account when considering the safety of people at sea? As your correspondent states with fearful warning, Mr Justice Sheen "will have the awful responsibility of knowing that if he gets the safety factors wrong the next disaster could be on the scale of the Titanic".

It is valuable that we have had this advice about the relationship of profits and safety at the outset of this important inquiry.

Yours faithfully, DAVID CROUCH, House of Commons.

Fighting injuries in the ring

From Professor Bryan Jennett
Sir, Your leader (April 4) on schoolboy boxing is welcome. However, it is not so that the way to stop brain damage is compulsory protective headgear.

Headguards give some protection against cuts on the forehead and might reduce eye injuries. But what damages the brain is rapid movement of the head which causes shearing forces to rupture nerve fibres and blood vessels. Such injuries have been reproduced experimentally by accelerating the head without any blow being struck.

In 1960 a middleweight champion at the University of Wisconsin died of a brain haemorrhage after an amateur fight wearing headgear. His death led to the banning of boxing as an intercollegiate sport in America. Let the arguments about boxing proceed — but not on the basis that brain damage can be so readily prevented. The only way to stop brain damage from boxing is to stop boxing.

Yours faithfully, BRYAN JENNETT, University of Glasgow, Department of Neurosurgery, Institute of Neurological Sciences, The Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, April 7.

From Mr Guy du Parc Braham
Sir, You question, by implication, the motives of the Amateur Boxing Association in its failure to introduce protective headgear.

The introduction of compulsory headguards would serve only to appease public opinion without, in fact, providing the necessary protection to the head which you so vehemently claim.

Headguards are claustrophobic, to the severe detriment of the boxer's senses. They impair vision, increase the size of the target area and increase the weight of the head. The boxer is thus less able to spot the incoming blow and less able to avoid it when he does.

Although the headguard may well lessen the effect of any one blow it leaves the boxer liable to take so many more punches that he had before that the net damage with a headguard is considerably greater than without.

A far preferable and effective form of protection is a bigger pair of gloves. They provide a larger protective area to the face and cause the hands of the boxer to move that much slower.

The change from match gloves

(10oz) to sparring gloves (18oz), for instance, is so marked that one feels almost as though one is fighting with pillows. Boxing would consequently become much more a test of skill than a determination of which man is the bigger thug.

Yours faithfully, GUY DU PARC BRAHAM (Captain, Cambridge University Amateur Boxing Club), Pembroke College, Cambridge.

From Mr Russell Wood
Sir, I disagree profoundly with your leading article advocating the abolition of schoolboy boxing. Schoolboy boxing suffers from a number of disadvantages and potential abuses of professional boxing in that the competitors are carefully matched in accordance with age and weight; and there is a well-established tradition of fights being stopped immediately one of the competitors establishes an overwhelming superiority.

Given these facts and traditions, schoolboy boxing has done an inordinate amount of good in not only teaching schoolboys the invaluable art of self-defence, but also, more important, the benefits of self control in times of crisis. Also it has afforded small boys, such as I was myself, the opportunity to excel at a sport where lack of size was not a disadvantage, to attain a greater degree of co-ordination of mind and body.

Unless it is to be laid down that any sport in which a competitor has died is to be abolished, I can see no justification for the abolition of schoolboy boxing, in spite of the recent tragic death of a young competitor.

Unlike professional, and even amateur, boxing the risk of brain damage being sustained through submission to serious punishment in the ring over a period of years does not apply to schoolboy boxing.

Yours truly, RUSSELL WOOD, The White Cottage, Chigwell Village, Essex.

From Mr A. Sandman
Sir, You tell us that "Banning schoolboy boxing would begin the process which would cause adult boxing to wither and die".

Then why, Sir, do you, pander to those who support boxing by publishing enthusiastic reports with photographs after a big fight? Yours faithfully, A. SANDMAN, 11 Sharples Street, NW1.

Aids and pregnancy

From Mr C. N. Hudson
Sir, Your leading article, "Aids testing in pregnancy" (March 25), covers features common to many different tests in pregnancy. It is important to make clear the distinction between routine testing and compulsory testing.

The latter would be quite foreign to current practice in animal care. Every woman has the right to decline to be tested for anything and this is exercised from time to time in those situations where a positive test might be associated with a recommendation for termination (e.g., Down's Syndrome).

The cost effectiveness of a number of tests such as those for syphilis may be challenged, but not to have offered such a test could be regarded as negligent.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, in association with representatives from sister professional bodies, is examining the impact of Aids on all aspects of maternity care and reproductive medicine. HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) status in pregnancy is unique among these, in so far as it is the only situation where the knowledge of a positive blood test in a symptomatic individual could potentially be of benefit to her as well as enabling her to make decisions about her unborn child.

More information is needed to assess the impact of pregnancy on the progression of Aids-related conditions.

Yours faithfully, C. N. HUDSON, Chairman, Subcommittee on Problems of Aids in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, NW1, March 26.

Bat and Balkans
From Dr T. J. Winniffrith and Mr F. E. Wills
Sir, I have the honour to report that a game of cricket was played at Ballinra in Albania on Monday, April 6. Score: British Academics XI 36; British Bankers XI 31.

Judging by the keen interest in the game displayed by the Albanian spectators, we hope that next year a combined team of town and gown may play an Albanian XI. Yours faithfully, T. J. WINNIFRITH (Captain of the Academics), FRANCIS WITTS (Captain of the Bankers), Hotel Shkoder, Shkoder, Albania, April 7.

Garden marketing

From Professor Alan Peacock, FBA
Sir, Let me assure Lord Gibson (March 20) that my invited article, "Pruning of the Garden" (not my title) was written (March 14) in a purely personal capacity, a fact which was unfortunately omitted.

Wynne Godley (April 1) naughtily misrepresents me. My doubt about the supposed unconvincing benefits supplied to the community by Covent Garden applied to separate Government funding of that institution.

He should also know better than

to research councils, but the outcome must surely place even greater responsibility on the peer review system to ensure that funds are properly invested.

We are constantly (and rightly) reminded of the importance of small businesses to the vitality of the economy. If competition between ideas begins to take account of the size of centres in which they are practised, then the rules of the free market are in reality being altered. I venture to suggest that the best man may no longer win.

Yours faithfully, J. P. CONNERADE (Member, Executive Committee, Save British Science), 76 Granville Road, SW18, March 30.

Where ignorance spells trouble

From Dr Geoffrey Alderman
Sir, I have acted for many years as an A-level history examiner, most recently as a chief examiner for modern British history. A significant proportion of the scripts that come to me make very depressing reading. Many candidates are clearly unable not merely to spell, but to reproduce accurately words that appear on the question paper ("Disraeli" seems to cause particular difficulty).

More distressing still is the widespread inability to construct an essay that has an introduction, a series of logical arguments, and a conclusion: many candidates adopt a "machine-gun" approach, firing off their factual knowledge in all directions in the hope that some pieces of information will prove relevant.

I realise that shortcomings such as these may occur through no fault of the teachers, who must, perforce, make do with the pupils presented to them. But what is one to make of the teacher of a candidate specialising in the 19th and early 20th centuries who, at the end of a poor answer to the question, "Why did Britain make an alliance with Japan in 1902?", told the examiner that it was not until he had read the question that he realised there had been an Anglo-Japanese alliance in 1902?

And what is one to make of the teacher who complained that a question on the Unionist governments of 1886-1905 was unfair because it was not "main line"? Yours sincerely, GEOFFREY ALDERMAN, Wit's End, 72 Colindale Lane, NW9, April 6.

From Dr F. E. S. Hatfield
Sir, John Clare's comments (April 4) on the report of the Oxford University Delegacy of Local Examinations reveals once again the intellectual elitism which dominates English education. Surely, in this era of rationalisation, it is high time our spelling was rationalised.

Our children are subject to many wasted hours of school time by the efforts of teachers to teach them to master the irrationalities of our system of communication in writing. Surely, the ability to communicate is much more important than the details of the vehicle used for that communication.

How many of our children are inhibited from ever expressing themselves in writing by their inability to spell and the resulting criticism which this evokes? Yours faithfully, F. E. S. HATFIELD, 212 High Street, Ongar, Essex.

From Mr Roger W. Wallbank
Sir, Less hospitals. Less beds. Less staff. Looks like Labour couldn't care less about English.

Yours faithfully, ROGER W. WALLBANK, 107 Selly Park Road, Birmingham.

Archbishop's views

From Mr R. N. G. Stone
Sir, If everyone held the views expressed by Dr Runcie (Spectrum, March 30), the world would, I am sure, be a thoroughly decent, civilised place. But that does not make his views correct. In particular I refer to his belief in God and his opposition to determinism.

Rather than defend these positions by producing evidence and arguments in favour of their being true, he justifies them by pointing out both the inadequacy, selfishness or viciousness of those who disagree with him and the moral energy of those on his side. Again, when discussing the claims of absolute and relative standards, his criterion is purely pragmatic.

Such considerations, of course, have no bearing whatever on the truth of any of these propositions. In fact they seem to verge on dishonesty, as if Dr Runcie were condemning Plato's policy of the "noble lie". I feel people to believe that proposition; it may not be true, but they'll behave much better for believing it.

I wonder if that is what Cardinal Hume meant by "the loss of truth". Yours faithfully, R. N. G. STONE, 92 Foxwell Street, Worcester, April 2.

to accuse me of some sort of cultural favouritism. While it may not be without interest that until recently the Arts Council subsidy to Covent Garden Opera and Ballet was almost exactly the same amount as that made available to the Scottish Arts Council, of which I am chairman, to cover all art forms in Scotland, I have stated publicly that I consider that the Arts Council allocation for Scotland for 1987-88 is fair and reasonable.

Yours faithfully, ALAN PEACOCK, 8 Gilmour Road, Edinburgh.

Research Council which described a new strategy in which groupings of scientists appear to have some kind of priority over individuals. The SERC "will no longer accept research grant applications for less than £25,000".

Of course, such provisions are much more convenient to administer, and of course there are areas of science in which £25,000 is an inadequate sum. I am myself a member of a grouping of scientists, and of course I would not argue against the merits of collaboration. However, there must be specific scientific reasons for it.

There may well be a case for transferring funds from the UGC

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 10 1946

This celebrated naval court-martial, arising out of events that took place almost six years before, had to await the officers' return at the end of the war. Lieutenant-Commander R. P. Lonsdale, the submarine's captain, was also honourably acquitted.

NAVAL OFFICER ACQUITTED

ORDEAL OF CRIPPLED SUBMARINE

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

PORTSMOUTH, April 9
Lieutenant Trevor Agar Beet, R.N., was honourably acquitted at a naval court-martial here to-day on charges of failing to take steps to ensure the sinking of H.M. submarine Seal when it appeared possible that she might fall into the hands of the enemy, and of failing to ensure the sinking of the Seal to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy after the command of the submarine had devolved upon him.

Captain R.F. Elkins, R.N., prosecuted, and Commander J. Cowell, R.N., acted as prisoner's friend.

The circumstantial letter read by Captain (S) A.J. Wheeler, Deputy Judge Advocate of the Fleet, stated that on May 4, 1940, at about 2.25 am while manning in the Kattegat the Seal was attacked by enemy aircraft about 10 miles north of the Skaw and suffered minor damage. (She dived, laid her mines and set course for home. About 6.30 a.m. there was a heavy explosion under the stern of the vessel while she was submerged, and she grounded in about 22 fathoms. Soon after midnight on May 5 the Seal was brought to the surface with great difficulty and so badly damaged that Lieutenant-Commander Rupert Philip Lonsdale, R.N., her captain, decided to make for Swedish territorial waters, proceeding stern first. When the Seal surfaced she had been submerged for about 22 hours, and officers and crew were suffering physically and mentally. Confidential books were thrown overboard.

MACHINE-GUN ATTACK
About 3 p.m. the Seal was attacked by enemy aircraft with machine-gun fire. Among the wounded was Lieutenant-Commander T.B.J.D. Butler, R.N., first lieutenant, and second-in-command. As he was no longer capable of carrying out his duties, the duties of second-in-command devolved upon Lieutenant Beet. When the Seal was about four miles from Swedish territorial waters the enemy attack upon her ceased. The enemy aeroplane landed near her, and the Seal's captain was asked to swim to it. He did so, and Lieutenant Beet was left in command of the Seal. It was alleged that before the Germans boarded the Seal he took no steps to sink her or prevent her falling into enemy hands. After the Germans boarded the Seal Lieutenant Beet said "Let's flood forward," but a German officer prevented this from being done.

Lieutenant-Commander R.P. Lonsdale, R.N., describing conditions inside the Seal after the explosion, said that her bow was standing up at an angle of about 18 degrees, and about one-fifth of the open space inside her was flooded. There was great difficulty in getting the submarine to the surface, and the work was the harder because of the exhausted physical condition of her crew.

Other witnesses describing this said they were suffering from severe headaches, and had difficulty in breathing. The Seal's secret gear, as well as her confidential books, was thrown overboard.

ANXIETY FOR CREW
Lieutenant Beet, giving evidence, said that the captain of the Seal, seeing that little more could be done, suggested the crew should stand up and repeat the Lord's Prayer. He (Lieutenant Beet) was convinced that the Seal would sink, and his main anxiety was to secure the safety of the crew, because in her bows was a depth-charge set to go off at the depth of 50ft, and he did not want that to happen before the men were in safety.

Describing his physical condition due to the submarine having been submerged for about 22 hours, he said he felt an overwhelming desire to go to sleep, had a severe headache, and a difficulty in thinking coherently. The German officer who came on board the Seal thought she was sinking rapidly.

The court found the charges against Lieutenant Beet were not proved, he was honourably acquitted, and the President of the court handed him back his sword.

Fertility rites?
From Dr Robin P. G. Gates
Sir, Spring is here and already the hedgerows are a riot of colour with the giant Fertiliser bag reigning supreme.

In my rambles this weekend I found large quantities of the deep blue variety "Nitram" (ICI, Billingham), the silver and black "Nitrasol" (UKF, Chester), the white and blue "Extra Grass" and "Double Spring PK" (both Norsk Hydro, Ipswich) and two code-numbered pale blue varieties "20-10-10" and "20-24-24" (both Seabright, Barking). The hardy perennial *Chemical drum* is also thriving.

Of course the farmer has done the dirty work and not the manufacturers cited above. But I do urge them to add these words to their products: "Please dispose of this packaging thoughtfully". Yours faithfully, ROBIN P. G. GATES, 66 Deeside Avenue, Fishbourne, Chichester, West Sussex, March 29.

Research Council which described a new strategy in which groupings of scientists appear to have some kind of priority over individuals. The SERC "will no longer accept research grant applications for less than £25,000".

Of course, such provisions are much more convenient to administer, and of course there are areas of science in which £25,000 is an inadequate sum. I am myself a member of a grouping of scientists, and of course I would not argue against the merits of collaboration. However, there must be specific scientific reasons for it.

There may well be a case for transferring funds from the UGC

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN.

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available ★ Returns only

THEATRE
LONDON

★ **COMEDY WITHOUT TITLES** (1987) Double bill by York Theatre Company of Lorraine's last play and some Dario Fo plays. Young Vic Studio Theatre, 85 The Cut, SE1 (01-928 6863). Tue: 7.30-8.40pm, Fri: 8.10-10.15pm, Sat: 8.30-10.40pm, Sun: 2.30-4.30pm, £5.50 (for both plays) £3.75 (for one play).

★ **COUNTRY DANCING** Nigel Williams's play mixes class struggle, sexual enquiry and rustic music. Good dancing. PR Theatre, Barbican Centre, EC2 (01-928 7855). Tue: 7.30-8.40pm, Wed: 7.30-8.40pm, Thu: 7.30-8.40pm, Fri: 7.30-8.40pm, Sat: 7.30-8.40pm, Sun: 2.30-3.30pm, £7.50.

★ **FROM MORNING TILL MIDNIGHT** Invention production of Kaiser's Expressionist classic. David Benbar as the cashier. Soho Poly Theatre, 16 Bedford House Street, W1 (01-638 9550). Tue: 7.30-8.40pm, Wed: 7.30-8.40pm, Thu: 7.30-8.40pm, Fri: 7.30-8.40pm, Sat: 7.30-8.40pm, Sun: 2.30-3.30pm, £7.50.

★ **NUNNERS** Off Broadway musical set in a convent, jokes about dead nuns. Fortune Theatre, Russell Street, WC2 (01-936 2238). Tue: 7.30-8.40pm, Wed: 7.30-8.40pm, Thu: 7.30-8.40pm, Fri: 7.30-8.40pm, Sat: 7.30-8.40pm, Sun: 2.30-3.30pm, £7.50.

★ **A PIECE OF MY MIND** George Cole and Anna Crook in Peter Nichols's play covering 20 years of a writer's life. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-930 2578). Tue: 7.30-8.40pm, Wed: 7.30-8.40pm, Thu: 7.30-8.40pm, Fri: 7.30-8.40pm, Sat: 7.30-8.40pm, Sun: 2.30-3.30pm, £7.50.

★ **THE TOURIST GUIDE** Intense emotional play about male and female in Greece by successful German playwright Gert Hofmann. Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, N1 (01-359 4404). Tue: 7.30-8.40pm, Wed: 7.30-8.40pm, Thu: 7.30-8.40pm, Fri: 7.30-8.40pm, Sat: 7.30-8.40pm, Sun: 2.30-3.30pm, £7.50.

★ **WHAT ABOUT LUV?** Mari Caine in the transfer of amusing musical version of Murray Schisgal's Luv. Three ill-matched lovers. Lyric Theatre, King Street, W6 (01-741 2311). Tue: 7.30-8.40pm, Wed: 7.30-8.40pm, Thu: 7.30-8.40pm, Fri: 7.30-8.40pm, Sat: 7.30-8.40pm, Sun: 2.30-3.30pm, £7.50.

★ **WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE YOUR TROUSERS?** Man wakes up in wrong bed to find clothes stolen by burglar. Take it from there. Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-978 0171). Tue: 7.30-8.40pm, Wed: 7.30-8.40pm, Thu: 7.30-8.40pm, Fri: 7.30-8.40pm, Sat: 7.30-8.40pm, Sun: 2.30-3.30pm, £7.50.

OUT OF TOWN

CAMBRIDGE ★ **Knuckle** Revival of David Hare's private-eye thriller with Brian Capron, Joanne Hale and Ernest Clark. Arts Theatre, Ruse Hill (0223 352000). Mon-Sat 8.10-10.15pm, matinee Sat 4.30-6.45pm, £5-25.50, until April 11.

LIVERPOOL ★ **Comedians** Trevor Griffiths's 1975 play The Comedians, a comedy of manners for women performers. With Cheryl Makler, Jenny Loefer and Ann Mitchell. Cavern Theatre, Hope Street (051 709 4778). Tue-Sat 8.10-10.15pm, £2.50-25.50, until May 2.

MANCHESTER ★ **Applause** Exciting musical based on the film All About Eve with Josephine Blake in the title role. Forum Theatre, Wythenshawe, Town Centre, Manchester (061 437 9863). Tue-Sat 7.30-9.50pm, £3-22.50, until April 11.

STRATFORD ★ **Julius Caesar** Shakespeare's classic with Roger Allam as Brutus and Nicholas Farrell as Antony in Terry Hands's production. Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 255623). Mon-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, £5-17.50.

STRATFORD ★ **Hyde Park** Courtship comedy by James Fennell, the RSC's first venture into Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 255623). Tue-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, £5-17.50.

TAUNTON ★ **Pearl** Michael Maloney plays his fabled hero. Cottesloe Theatre, Coal Orchard (0223 83244). Mon-Sat 7.45-9.45pm, matinee Thurs and Sat 2.30-4.30pm, £2.75-25.25, until April 11.

FILMS

★ **Also on national release**
★ **Advance booking possible**
BLUE VELVET (1986) David Lynch's surreal tale about the placid surface of an American small town being violently ripped apart. Available Region 1 on VHS. Dennis Hopper plays the local town, Kyle MacLachlan a wholesome hero (120 min). Chelsea Cinema (01-361 3742). Progs 1.10, 3.35, 6.05, 8.40, 11.15. Luma (01-361 3742). Progs 1.10, 3.35, 6.05, 8.40, 11.15. Screen on the Hill (01-435 3368). Progs 1.20, 3.40, 6.10, 8.40, 11.15.

THE VOYAGE HOME - STAR TREK IV (PG) The Enterprise team trek in their alien ship. Leonard Nimoy directs (116 min). Cannon Baywater (01-229 4149). Progs 2.30, 5.15, 8.15, 11.15. Cannon Edgware Road (01-723 5801). Progs 2.30, 5.15, 8.15, 11.15. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.30, 5.15, 8.15, 11.15. Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 1310). Progs 1.10, 3.35, 6.05, 8.40, 11.15.

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Sir William Walton wrote his Battle of Britain score as part of the score for the film, Battle of Britain, in the late 1960s. But when the film appeared, only a few seconds of Walton's music remained and the suite did not get a public performance until two years ago. It is now a popular item and is being played in tonight's RAF Anniversary Concert by the RPO under Sir Charles Groves, along with Beethoven's Symphony No 7 and Liszt's First Piano Concerto.



Straphangers on the London Tube will, from next week, be able to strap their journeys more rewardingly by drinking in the verse of John Keats (above) and his "Endymion", or of Edward Thomas who was killed 70 years ago at the battle of Arras or, coming nearer to the present day, the work of Adrian Mitchell. They are the latest recruits to Poets on the Underground and their works will adorn the tubes over the next three months. At the same time, more than 3,000 posters are going out to schools, libraries, hospitals and prisons. London Transport provides half the advertising space free of charge and the posters are

printed and designed by Faber. Other publishers with poets are also involved and it all adds up to a painless introduction to Eng. Lit. If Faber and company sell a few more volumes as a result, why not? The "Endymion" extract with Sir Thomas Wyatt's "The Long Man" as the longest of the pieces, and should last all the way to Morden or West Ruislip. For a shorter hop try this excerpt from Adrian Mitchell: "He breathed in air, he breathed out light/Charlie Parker was my delight". Posters available from Poets on the Underground, 114 Mansfield Road, London NW3.

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★ **HANK WANGFORD** C & W's most famous singing gynaecologist and tongue-in-cheek advocate of "sincerely" takes his music and dry humour to the Alternative Country Music Festival. Town & Country Club, 9-17, Highgate Road, London NW5 (01-261 5334). 7.30pm, £4.99 (£3.50 with UB40).

★ **SPEAR OF DESTINY** Kirk Brandon's come-back tour with a new line-up that includes Steve and Pete Bernice. Support is the inimitable The Screamers. Playhouse, 18-21 Greenside Place, Edinburgh (031 557 2590). 7.30pm, £5.

★ **THE HOLLIES** One of the premier singles groups of the 1960s with a string of hits including "Just One Look", "Sun Ship" and "Here I Go Again". Their fortune took a tumble with Graham Nash's departure from the band in 1968, leaving with him his distinctive harmony vocal which was so much a part of the Hollies' sound. This also coincided with 1968's being generally becoming an untimely year. Three more nights remain on their current UK tour. Markov Theatre, The Friars, Canterbury (0227 67246). 7.45pm, £5.50-27.50.

★ **GERALD BROCKHURST** (1890-1978): A retrospective of the artist's work, including a selection of his 1930s work which was forced, by scandal, to go to the USA. His sketches are among the medium's finest. National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (01-930 1553). Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-6pm, free, until May 31.

★ **GRAIGIE AITCHINSON** 30 paintings by an eccentric artist whose delightful poetic pictures could hardly be more sophisticated. Albemarle Gallery, 18 Albemarle Street, London W1 (01-433 7968). Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 11am-1pm, free, until May 11.

★ **THE ART OF WATERCOLOUR** Covering 500 years from Duran to Paul Nash, this important exhibition includes examples by Turner and Constable, and is an indispensable guide to the medium. Castle Museum, Castle Meadow, Norwich (0603 611277). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until May 17.

★ **WONDERS OF CREATION** An exhibition of 70 natural history drawings of plants and animals, the earliest of which is an Anglo-Saxon herbal. British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (01-323 7111). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30-5pm, free, until July 5.

★ **ON A PLATE** A show of plates painted by 100 of Britain's best artists, for which members of the public can make a special bid. Proceeds to Art Aid. Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (01-462 6078). Daily 10am-5pm, free, until May 10.

★ **VENICE ANOORA** 140 works, including 16 artists, including Adrian George and Gerald Mynott, who were dispatched to Venice by the British Arts Council to record their impressions. Arts Club, 9 Maddox Street, London W1 (01-489 8870). Mon-Fri 10am-noon, 3.30-5.30pm, free, until May 10.

★ **SIMPLY RED** Final night of the current tour by the band fronted by singer Mick Hucknall, a would-be Al Green who is being upstaged vocally by the prowess of support Terence Trent D'Arby. Hippodrome, 200 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0222 459544). 7.30pm, £2-27.

★ **SHAKESPEARE'S LONDON** meet St Paul's tube, 11am, £2.25. AN HISTORIC PUB WALK - WINS OF COURT: meet Chancery Lane tube, 7.30pm, £2.25. HAUNTED LONDON - A GHOST WALK: meet Covent Garden tube, 7.30pm, £2.50 (ends in a pub).

★ **THE CHAIRS OF THE ROYAL CHESLEA VILLAGE** meet Sloane Square tube, 11am, £2. LONDON HISTORIC DOCKLANDS AND THAMES: meet Tower Hill tube, 2.30pm, £2.75. SHAKESPEARE'S LONDON: meet St Paul's tube, 11am, £2.25. AN HISTORIC PUB WALK - WINS OF COURT: meet Chancery Lane tube, 7.30pm, £2.25. HAUNTED LONDON - A GHOST WALK: meet Covent Garden tube, 7.30pm, £2.50 (ends in a pub).

★ **BOURDEAUX COLLECTION** 25 etchings of great wine chateaux, including works by Tom Phillips. Prince of Wales Theatre, London W1 (01-434 2931).

★ **TURNER - THE EARLY YEARS** Gallery talk by Andrew Wilson, curator of the Turner Collection, as part of a series on art and society in Turner's lifetime. Clore Auditorium, Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (01-821 1313), 1pm, free.

★ **THE AWARD WINNING PLAY** by Rhydian Macdonald. When I was a child I used to scream a shout. "ONE OF THE FINEST PLAYS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY". One Mon-Thurs 8.15, Fri & Sat 8.45.

★ **WYNNIAN'S** 5.30pm, £2.50. 6.45pm, £4.44. 8.15pm, £5.50. 9.30pm, £6.44. 10.45pm, £7.50. 11.55pm, £8.44. 1.15pm, £9.44. 2.30pm, £10.44. 3.45pm, £11.44. 4.55pm, £12.44. 6.10pm, £13.44. 7.25pm, £14.44. 8.40pm, £15.44. 9.55pm, £16.44. 11.10pm, £17.44. 12.25pm, £18.44. 1.40pm, £19.44. 2.55pm, £20.44. 4.10pm, £21.44. 5.25pm, £22.44. 6.40pm, £23.44. 7.55pm, £24.44. 9.10pm, £25.44. 10.25pm, £26.44. 11.40pm, £27.44. 12.55pm, £28.44. 1.15pm, £29.44. 2.30pm, £30.44. 3.45pm, £31.44. 4.55pm, £32.44. 6.10pm, £33.44. 7.25pm, £34.44. 8.40pm, £35.44. 9.55pm, £36.44. 11.10pm, £37.44. 12.25pm, £38.44. 1.40pm, £39.44. 2.55pm, £40.44. 4.10pm, £41.44. 5.25pm, £42.44. 6.40pm, £43.44. 7.55pm, £44.44. 9.10pm, £45.44. 10.25pm, £46.44. 11.40pm, £47.44. 12.55pm, £48.44. 1.15pm, £49.44. 2.30pm, £50.44. 3.45pm, £51.44. 4.55pm, £52.44. 6.10pm, £53.44. 7.25pm, £54.44. 8.40pm, £55.44. 9.55pm, £56.44. 11.10pm, £57.44. 12.25pm, £58.44. 1.40pm, £59.44. 2.55pm, £60.44. 4.10pm, £61.44. 5.25pm, £62.44. 6.40pm, £63.44. 7.55pm, £64.44. 9.10pm, £65.44. 10.25pm, £66.44. 11.40pm, £67.44. 12.55pm, £68.44. 1.15pm, £69.44. 2.30pm, £70.44. 3.45pm, £71.44. 4.55pm, £72.44. 6.10pm, £73.44. 7.25pm, £74.44. 8.40pm, £75.44. 9.55pm, £76.44. 11.10pm, £77.44. 12.25pm, £78.44. 1.40pm, £79.44. 2.55pm, £80.44. 4.10pm, £81.44. 5.25pm, £82.44. 6.40pm, £83.44. 7.55pm, £84.44. 9.10pm, £85.44. 10.25pm, £86.44. 11.40pm, £87.44. 12.55pm, £88.44. 1.15pm, £89.44. 2.30pm, £90.44. 3.45pm, £91.44. 4.55pm, £92.44. 6.10pm, £93.44. 7.25pm, £94.44. 8.40pm, £95.44. 9.55pm, £96.44. 11.10pm, £97.44. 12.25pm, £98.44. 1.40pm, £99.44. 2.55pm, £100.44. 4.10pm, £101.44. 5.25pm, £102.44. 6.40pm, £103.44. 7.55pm, £104.44. 9.10pm, £105.44. 10.25pm, £106.44. 11.40pm, £107.44. 12.55pm, £108.44. 1.15pm, £109.44. 2.30pm, £110.44. 3.45pm, £111.44. 4.55pm, £112.44. 6.10pm, £113.44. 7.25pm, £114.44. 8.40pm, £115.44. 9.55pm, £116.44. 11.10pm, £117.44. 12.25pm, £118.44. 1.40pm, £119.44. 2.55pm, £120.44. 4.10pm, £121.44. 5.25pm, £122.44. 6.40pm, £123.44. 7.55pm, £124.44. 9.10pm, £125.44. 10.25pm, £126.44. 11.40pm, £127.44. 12.55pm, £128.44. 1.15pm, £129.44. 2.30pm, £130.44. 3.45pm, £131.44. 4.55pm, £132.44. 6.10pm, £133.44. 7.25pm, £134.44. 8.40pm, £135.44. 9.55pm, £136.44. 11.10pm, £137.44. 12.25pm, £138.44. 1.40pm, £139.44. 2.55pm, £140.44. 4.10pm, £141.44. 5.25pm, £142.44. 6.40pm, £143.44. 7.55pm, £144.44. 9.10pm, £145.44. 10.25pm, £146.44. 11.40pm, £147.44. 12.55pm, £148.44. 1.15pm, £149.44. 2.30pm, £150.44. 3.45pm, £151.44. 4.55pm, £152.44. 6.10pm, £153.44. 7.25pm, £154.44. 8.40pm, £155.44. 9.55pm, £156.44. 11.10pm, £157.44. 12.25pm, £158.44. 1.40pm, £159.44. 2.55pm, £160.44. 4.10pm, £161.44. 5.25pm, £162.44. 6.40pm, £163.44. 7.55pm, £164.44. 9.10pm, £165.44. 10.25pm, £166.44. 11.40pm, £167.44. 12.55pm, £168.44. 1.15pm, £169.44. 2.30pm, £170.44. 3.45pm, £171.44. 4.55pm, £172.44. 6.10pm, £173.44. 7.25pm, £174.44. 8.40pm, £175.44. 9.55pm, £176.44. 11.10pm, £177.44. 12.25pm, £178.44. 1.40pm, £179.44. 2.55pm, £180.44. 4.10pm, £181.44. 5.25pm, £182.44. 6.40pm, £183.44. 7.55pm, £184.44. 9.10pm, £185.44. 10.25pm, £186.44. 11.40pm, £187.44. 12.55pm, £188.44. 1.15pm, £189.44. 2.30pm, £190.44. 3.45pm, £191.44. 4.55pm, £192.44. 6.10pm, £193.44. 7.25pm, £194.44. 8.40pm, £195.44. 9.55pm, £196.44. 11.10pm, £197.44. 12.25pm, £198.44. 1.40pm, £199.44. 2.55pm, £200.44. 4.10pm, £201.44. 5.25pm, £202.44. 6.40pm, £203.44. 7.55pm, £204.44. 9.10pm, £205.44. 10.25pm, £206.44. 11.40pm, £207.44. 12.55pm, £208.44. 1.15pm, £209.44. 2.30pm, £210.44. 3.45pm, £211.44. 4.55pm, £212.44. 6.10pm, £213.44. 7.25pm, £214.44. 8.40pm, £215.44. 9.55pm, £216.44. 11.10pm, £217.44. 12.25pm, £218.44. 1.40pm, £219.44. 2.55pm, £220.44. 4.10pm, £221.44. 5.25pm, £222.44. 6.40pm, £223.44. 7.55pm, £224.44. 9.10pm, £225.44. 10.25pm, £226.44. 11.40pm, £227.44. 12.55pm, £228.44. 1.15pm, £229.44. 2.30pm, £230.44. 3.45pm, £231.44. 4.55pm, £232.44. 6.10pm, £233.44. 7.25pm, £234.44. 8.40pm, £235.44. 9.55pm, £236.44. 11.10pm, £237.44. 12.25pm, £238.44. 1.40pm, £239.44. 2.55pm, £240.44. 4.10pm, £241.44. 5.25pm, £242.44. 6.40pm, £243.44. 7.55pm, £244.44. 9.10pm, £245.44. 10.25pm, £246.44. 11.40pm, £247.44. 12.55pm, £248.44. 1.15pm, £249.44. 2.30pm, £250.44. 3.45pm, £251.44. 4.55pm, £252.44. 6.10pm, £253.44. 7.25pm, £254.44. 8.40pm, £255.44. 9.55pm, £256.44. 11.10pm, £257.44. 12.25pm, £258.44. 1.40pm, £259.44. 2.55pm, £260.44. 4.10pm, £261.44. 5.25pm, £262.44. 6.40pm, £263.44. 7.55pm, £264.44. 9.10pm, £265.44. 10.25pm, £266.44. 11.40pm, £267.44. 12.55pm, £268.44. 1.15pm, £269.44. 2.30pm, £270.44. 3.45pm, £271.44. 4.55pm, £272.44. 6.10pm,

THE ARTS

Hospital
in a
state of
siege

Yesterday the Princess of Wales officially opened Britain's first AIDS ward, and *This Week* (Times) chose to ask awkward questions about its likely future. The Middlesex Hospital's 12-bed ward is

TELEVISION

the visible part of the iceberg: since the Government spent most of its AIDS budget on alarmist advertising, the VD clinic and blood laboratory have been swamped.

This portrait of a hospital under siege was salutary in that the same pattern of underfunding is likely to be repeated elsewhere. It was also welcome to see the ward-sister point out that she is a greater health-risk to her patients, with their depressed immune systems, than they are to her.

The monstrous growths that informed *40 Minutes: The Mighty Leek* (BBC2) resembled baby palms-trees with preternaturally pallid trunks. For some reason (hardly probed here), prize leeks are enthusiastically cultivated in the allotments of the North-east; are jealously guarded, sometimes stolen; and are annually judged according to their volume, as assessed by a booklet called *The Newcastle Brown Leek Calculator*.

Even at this Brobdingnagian bulk, leeks are scarcely exciting. A slice of cultural history would have helped the non-green viewer to put the habit into context, and one would like to have heard the views of the growers' wives as they patiently polished the trophies.

Martin Cropper

Adult response to juvenile horrors

CINEMA

Blue Velvet (18)
Lumière; Screen on the Hill; Gate Notting Hill; Chelsea Cinema

Flight of the Navigator (U)
Odeon Marble Arch

The Voyage Home - Star Trek 4 (PG)
Empire Leicester Square

David Lynch and *Blue Velvet* are the cult of the moment - at a time, admittedly, when there is not much cinema about which to be cultish. Lynch has an imagination which is dark and curious and original, and he has the ability to translate his visions to the screen. He loves darkness and unexplained stirrings in the shadows, the menace of bleak, deserted back-lots and crumbling buildings, images of putrefaction and decay. The images are complemented by a collage of unnerving sounds - a distant chainsaw, the buzz of a defective electrical connection, thundering silences in between - which he devises with Alan Splet, his "sound designer".

Lynch's first feature, *Eraserhead*, was a surreal distortion of family patterns. *The Elephant Man*, on the surface a conventional historical film, juxtaposed clinical deformity with social deformations at the end of the Industrial Revolution. In the fantasy-spectacle *Dune* Lynch was overcome by technology and an inadequate script.

Blue Velvet is a long-cherished project, which he wrote himself. It is set in a small town called Lumberton (in honour of the local industry) somewhere in the 1950s - an old Bobby Vinton recording of the title-song accompanies the credits. Images in children's-book



Innocent young couple caught in a mesh of corruption: Kyle MacLachlan and Isabella Rossellini in *Blue Velvet*

colouring establish the place: blue sky, white picket fences, green grass, red roses, yellow tulips, a fire engine with no fire to go to and a crocodile of infants at a school crossing.

The idyll is quickly shattered. A man collapses while watering his lawn. Nearby the same man's son (Kyle MacLachlan) retrieves from the grass a severed human ear, with bits of hair still attached, crawling with ants. This macabre discovery sets him on to private investigation, assisted by the daughter of the local detective (Laura Dern).

The township turns out to be a Pandora's box. The young man quickly finds himself enmeshed with very sinister people: a pathologically masochistic prostitute and roadhouse singer (Isabella Rossellini); a crazed, possessive, sadistic gangster (Dennis Hopper) who asserts his power over her by kidnapping her small son.

"It's a strange world" is the recurrent refrain of the innocent young couple. The boy is Pandora indeed, driven by inexplicable and

insatiable curiosity - "fascinated because it's hidden... it's secret". "I can't decide," says the girl pertinently, "whether you are a detective or a pervert". Innocence may in the end be perverted by its own curiosity: to his horror he finds himself first turned into a voyeur, then yielding to the masochistic woman's feverish urging. In the end he becomes a killer himself.

At the end of the film, order is restored. We are back to the picket fences and primary colours. The young man wakes up from a bad dream, among his loved ones. They chirrup over a robin redbreast on the window-ledge, which sours the idyll by masticating a worm.

The world may be strange, but the hidden parts of it exposed in *Blue Velvet* are not all that unfamiliar in clinical or criminal terms. What Lynch is dredging out is the surreal fantasy of *Eraserhead* but abnormal excesses of sexual behaviour. When

Dennis Hopper, hyped up by gulps from what seems to be an oxygen mask, launches into sexual assault on Rossellini, trying to defy his impotence with foul language and crazed shifts of role, it is repulsive; yet we can recognize the same underlying clinical patterns as in the more cheerful *Streatham* sex-games on view in *Personal Services*.

The cult enthusiasm for Lynch is not based only on the undeniable skill and expressiveness of his technique: the main attraction evidently depends upon the imaginative content, so it is curious to speculate on the particular appeal of *Blue Velvet* for critics and devotees (though not so much for the general public, who in America at least seem to have found it a shade too tough). It can hardly lie in the social message: there is no great novelty in revealing that sunny small-town facades may conceal dark mysteries. Nor can it lie entirely in the satisfaction of prurient curiosity by its admittedly vivid depiction of violent sexual aberration.

Juvenile horror films reveal a powerful contemporary craving for images of violence, degradation and morbid putrefaction. Perhaps *Blue Velvet* is a more grown-up version of this strange contemporary catharsis. The anti-ridden car may in the end be closer to *Nightmare on Elm Street* than to the severed hand in Buñuel's and Dalí's *Un Chien Andalou*.

For an Easter holiday outing, the kids will probably rate *Flight of the Navigator*, directed by Randal Kleiser, as only average. It has the merit of a tidy, logical story (the 12-year-old hero, kidnapped by things from outer space, is returned home unchanged eight years later, so that his younger brother has become his older brother) but otherwise is standard stuff with its happy family, NASA nannies and playful extraterrestrials who get a taste for American idiom and culture.

The nature of the *Star Trek* series is that each begins with an elaborate, speeded-up story-tell now recapitulation, and then launches into preposterous and fairly incomprehensible new plots. In *The Voyage Home - Star Trek 4* the mission of our (noticeably ageing) heroes is to return to the 20th century to bring back some hump-backed whales - extinct in their 23rd century - since these charming beasts alone can understand the language of a lethal probe that is threatening their planet.

This takes some working out, and probably is not worth the trouble. The main point is that it permits the *Star Trekkers* to visit 1986, which saves on special effects and makes for some cheerful cross-century comedy. Naturally their 23rd-century garments do not turn a head in San Francisco, apart from a justified jibe that Kirk (William Shatner) and Spock (Leonard Nimoy) look like Robin Hood and Friar Tuck. Quips and character oddities rather than drama keep the series going, though this episode is rather weighed down with save-the-whales propaganda. It was directed by spike-eared Spock himself.

David Robinson

CONCERT

**Bournemouth SO/
Handley**
Poole Art Centre

Symphonies, even ninth symphonies, are no longer the rarities they were 20 years ago, but Robert Simpson still stands powerfully alone in his symphonic single-mindedness, in the insistence with which his music presents itself, in his total lack of pretence or conscious irony.

The first performance of his Ninth Symphony on Wednesday evening, by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra under Vernon Handley at the Poole Arts Centre, was predictably an emphatic occasion.

Also predictable by now are Simpson's symphonic premisses. His own note refers to Bruckner and Bach, both of them clear points of reference. His description of the first part of his immense four-movements-in-one structure as a "vest choral prelude" is apt, but it could apply to much else in a work so directed by a purposeful bass-line and so solidly ordered in its counterpoint; and equally the spacious opening and the massive harmonic architecture can be related to Bruckner, though I could not put my finger on the specific homage which the

composer challenges his audience to identify.

Other ancestors, however, are very evidently lending support, not least Sibelius in the ostinato of gathering tension and Nielsen in the energized angularity and the intermingled force of the major climaxes: both are, of course, composers on whom Simpson has written with the insight of a comrade at arms.

More surprising is the echo of Tippett, in the first part particularly, thought perhaps this is merely an adventitious result of working so much with fourths. However, the shadow of Shostakovich, which darkens over a string elegy at the midway point and again over the final slow, ethereal coda, is more pervasive, and perhaps more indicative of the compulsion that lies behind this music.

Though Simpson seems to work naturally with assumptions that were imposed on Shostakovich - those of music as essentially tonal, progressive and even heroic in its aspirations - one senses something of the suppression that has been necessary for him to achieve that "naturalness".

One senses it not only in the symphony's bleaker moments but right through in the striking absence of large thematic ideas. Given that the work lasts for more than three-quarters of an hour, it is extraordinarily lacking in tangible tunes: Simpson's effort is all towards the harmonic growth of his music, with the result that melodies tend to be journeys through pitches made inevitable by the harmony, just as orchestral colouring is subdued to the needs of clear counterpoint and appropriate weight.

The work was conducted by Mr Handley with all the required energy and largeness of thought, thought it will surely receive performances that are better played. May the next be at the repeat in Southampton tonight, which is to be broadcast.

Paul Griffiths

All a dream

THEATRE

Julius Caesar
Stratford

In one of the few fully-lit scenes of Terry Hands's production, Caesar - in the person of a grimly scowling David Waller - bears down on Cassius (Sean Baker), telling him to his face that men of his sort cannot stand the sight of "a greater than themselves" and forcing him down on to his knees. Whatever the future of Rome under this crowned warlord, Cassius would certainly have been in for a bad time.

You expect Cassius to be a realist, of course, paired with an idealist co-conspirator. What Mr Hands has done is to expand these labels and push the contrast to the expressionist limit. Cassius has a ramorous, totally self-interested motive for the assassination. For Roger Allam's Brutus, it is an extension of his own myth. He lives exclusively in the dream of his own nobility; just as Caesar lives entirely inside his dream of power.

The play itself is staged as a dream, following on from last season's *Macbeth* as another fatal cycle of events unrolling in an undefined location with no interval. Farrell's set consists of three monumental brick walls. The lighting (also by Mr Hands) is almost entirely directional, and designed as an Apollonian commentary on the action. At the opening, it softens the brickwork into the appearance of cloth, with three spreading bloodstains on the back wall.

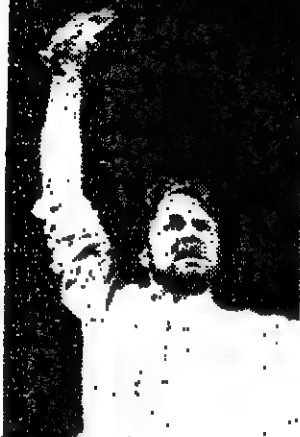
Light supplies the illusion of smoking altars, and the presidential glare of the prophetic storm. Cowled conspirators arise from nowhere, each lit with a sepulchrally sealed beam from overhead. The stage is a black cavern where

spotlit groups are backed with glimpses of reflecting helmets, the white stick of the invalid Decius and the bodiless mask of Caesar's ghost. From the first sight of his giant golden statue, the action is punctuated by a Mahlerian death-march by Guy Woolfenden.

This is not the kind of setting for the common people of Rome. They get a quick blighted walk-on in the first scene; and they get their chance to do away with Cinnus the poet. Otherwise, they are unseen. *Julius Caesar* without the mob sounds like the ultimate theatrical solecism; and the production pays a heavy penalty for its absence. Come the funeral scene and the conspirators make a bloodstained walkdown to the verge of the stage (one of far too many walkdowns) for Brutus to talk us round to his point of view.

The luckless Antony (Nicholas Farrell) then has to follow suit and exercise his oratorical magic on swaying the inflammable passions of a house full of docile American visitors and exasperated reviewers. How, you wonder, is he going to get any feedback? The answer, sad to say, consists of a pre-recorded chorus of "The Will! The Will!", emitted from the wings while Antony continues to pound the customers out front.

Thus does the production cancel out the great moment of a tumultuously crowded stage suddenly left bare as the



Roger Allam: heroic actor of great authority

mob fury explodes. It says much for Mr Farrell that he delivers the speech on a rising arc of passion. Physically lightweight for the role, he brings extraordinary emotional resources to it.

The big breakthrough is that of Mr Allam, who emerges as an heroic actor of great authority and a verse-speaker of many eloquent registers, all imprinted with his personal music. It is a voice equally attuned to regret, philosophic resolve, command and towering rage. Repeatedly he transmits the experience of a desperate thought-process. He also shows Brutus the self-idealizing actor. I have not seen a more complete performance of this role.

Irving Wardle

The Tourist Guide
Almeida

The botched production four years ago of an earlier play by Botho Strauss may be responsible for the further delay in showing his work here. This new play dates from 1985. It is penetrated by the experience of Greece, a burning, harsh and dangerous Arcadia where the gods are not gone, even though a person must become half mad before catching a glimpse of them.

The power of the place is magnificently expressed in Hildegard Bechtler's set: fragments of tiled pavement, remnants of steps and the great square arch, weathered at the joints but still upright and blazing white.

The play starts within the ruins of Olympia, where the long-legged Kristine bounds on spouting archaeological statistics to a solitary tourist, Martin (Paul Freeman). Tilda Swinton judges her gait and voice perfectly. Abruptly the two become lovers; they part, meet again, again part. Actor and actress give this progress quite an exceptional feel of reality, but Strauss provides intriguing, when camped outside his window, and Mr Freeman's torpid stare, the subtle emphasis on the word "doomed" that signals insincerity. A strange, powerful play.

The writing is formally unusual, and superbly translated by Tinch Minter and Anthony Vivis. There are scenes where only one of the characters speaks, others

where neither speaks. Echoes of Greek myth vibrate around the situation, much as later scenes are separated by echoes of words taken from the scene just ended. Dionysus is never far off, and there are memories of *The Bacchae* in Martin's distracted passion for the girl half his age.

A precise man (inevitably a teacher), nervous when facing disorder, we see him maddened by the impulsive, floating creature he can never net in words. Isolated in a shepherd's hut throughout the broiling summer heat, his wit turns. Passions become violent - though Strauss is so selective of details in the later scenes that I lost hold of his drift.

But performances remain engrossing to the end. Notice Miss Swinton's variety of speech on the telephone, her desperation when camped outside his window, and Mr Freeman's torpid stare, the subtle emphasis on the word "doomed" that signals insincerity. A strange, powerful play.

Jeremy Kingston

Byrars's penchant for a kind of high-grade New Age music was also in evidence in "Snb Rosa", a tentative pastoral for sextet in which the use of a cello bow on the metal keys of a vibraphone was added to this listener's treasury of experience, and "My First Home", an attempt to evoke the spirit of the late Bill Evans, whose music was often as pretty as Byrars's but never so passive.

The evening's liveliest offering came during the performance of two of Ornette Coleman's chamber works. One, "The Sacred Mind of Johnny Dolphin", featured the strange, oblique drumming of the composer's son, Denardo Coleman, and contained a thoroughly unfair amount of high-register trumpet work. The other, "Poets and Writers", was interpreted by the Belancos String Quartet with enormous élan and, in its rhythmic vivacity and generally imaginative use of light and shade, seemed easily the most interesting piece Coleman has yet created in this milieu.

Richard Williams

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Royal visit helps combat Aids fears

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The Princess of Wales yesterday made known her condemnation of prejudice and discrimination towards Aids victims after meeting nine homosexual men suffering from the disease in a London hospital.

During a visit to Britain's first purpose-built ward for Aids sufferers, at the Middlesex Hospital, the Princess shook hands with all the patients, sat on the edge of their beds and chatted with them.

Senior medical staff said they found her concern for the patients very moving and were in no doubt that the Princess made exceptional efforts to help demolish misconceptions about the risks of infection from sufferers.

She seemed well-informed, needed no reassurances and did not wear any protective clothing.

Her visit, officially to open the ward, was considered invaluable by leading Aids specialists and nursing staff in combating hostile attitudes encountered by many victims of the disease.

Some of the patients had lost their jobs or their homes as a result of discrimination.

Professor Michael Adler and Professor Stephen Semple, the two most senior physicians involved in treating the patients, said later they hoped the Princess's visit would go a long way towards changing public attitudes about the disease and its victims.

"It came across to us very strongly that Her Royal Highness was very concerned about the hysteria that has surrounded Aids. She almost apologized to us for it," Professor Adler said.

"She was very positive in condemning the rather unfortunate situations we have seen in the last three or four years."

"Her attitude completely outstripped my personal expectations."

However, fears of being identified were so strong among the patients that none would allow themselves to be named or photographed with

the Princess, with the exception of one man who agreed to be photographed from behind.

The patients ranged in age from a man in his early 30s to one aged 67, with whom the Princess chatted for ten minutes about opera.

Professor Semple said: "The Princess sat on the beds and talked at length about their lives and their problems."

"Indeed, we had to move her along otherwise her stay

Public awareness of Aids has risen sharply since December after intensive coverage of the disease on television, the Independent Broadcasting Authority said last night.

A MORI poll of 1,004 people aged between 16 and 54 commissioned by the IBA and conducted in the last two weeks of March showed that 77 per cent of the public now believes they know a lot or a fair amount about Aids. Only 48 per cent claimed similar knowledge last December.

The poll showed that as public awareness has increased, there is less support for coercive measures to control its spread. In the March poll, 58 per cent supported mandatory blood testing of the entire population, compared to 63 per cent in December.

Tolerance of homosexuality stood at 50 per cent in the new poll, compared to 45 per cent in December.

on the ward would have been too long." As it was, Her Royal Highness the Princess stayed 20 minutes more than planned.

"Her visit shows how safe ordinary, day-to-day contact with Aids patients is," he said.

Although the ward is not intended for terminal care, some patients with Aids have died there since the first admissions in January.

The men in the ward yesterday were being treated for manifestations of Aids such as Kaposi's Sarcoma, a form of skin cancer.

Sister Jacqui Elliott, who is in charge of the ward, said: "We are caring for people who are living with Aids, not dying from Aids."



A girl wearing traditional Czechoslovak costume presenting Mr Gorbachov with bread and salt in Prague yesterday.

Prague crowds greet Gorbachov

From Richard Bassett, Prague
The shadow cast over Czechoslovak-Soviet relations by the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia seemed to evaporate yesterday as Mr Gorbachov was mobbed by tens of thousands of enthusiastic Czechoslovaks during a walkabout in Prague.

The Soviet leader arrived in Prague yesterday morning for a three-day visit widely seen as crucial for Czechoslovakia's future.

Although his walkabout was not announced officially, thousands of people gathered at the bottom of Wenceslas Square, where the presence of policemen and television cameras built up later in the afternoon.

Many said they knew Mr Gorbachov would be there because of a photograph on the front page of yesterday's evening paper, *Vesni Praha*, showing the

square and captioned enigmatically as "an area increasingly popular in Prague".

During his 45-minute walkabout, the Soviet leader joked with young students, asking when they would come to Moscow. "Soon, soon we hope," many replied.

Though it is doubtful whether he knew any faces of Charter 77 dissidents who were also to be seen in the front row of those waiting for him, Mr Gorbachov smiled and exchanged words with those around Mr Jiri Dienstbier, one of Prague's most prominent dissidents.

Others in the crowd cried: "Mikhail, Mikhail, stay here in Prague. We wish you to stay longer."

Earlier, Mr Gorbachov had held long talks after lunch with the Czechoslovak leader, President Husak and members of the Politburo. The fact that the talks

lasted longer than planned was seen as significant by Western diplomats.

After his triumphant walkabout, Mr Gorbachov returned to the Soviet Embassy before attending a banquet in his honour at Hradcany Castle.

● Soviet message: Mr Gorbachov brought his message of change to Czechoslovakia in talks with President Husak (Renter reports).

But no details of the discussions with the 74-year-old leader were disclosed.

The President made clear last month that his Politburo was ready to embrace the principles of Mr Gorbachov's reforms.

The Soviet leader postponed the visit, initially due to start on Monday, saying he had a slight cold but there was widespread Western press speculation over the delay. There have been no signs that it was due to last-minute strains between Moscow and Prague.

Embassy bugging dispute continues

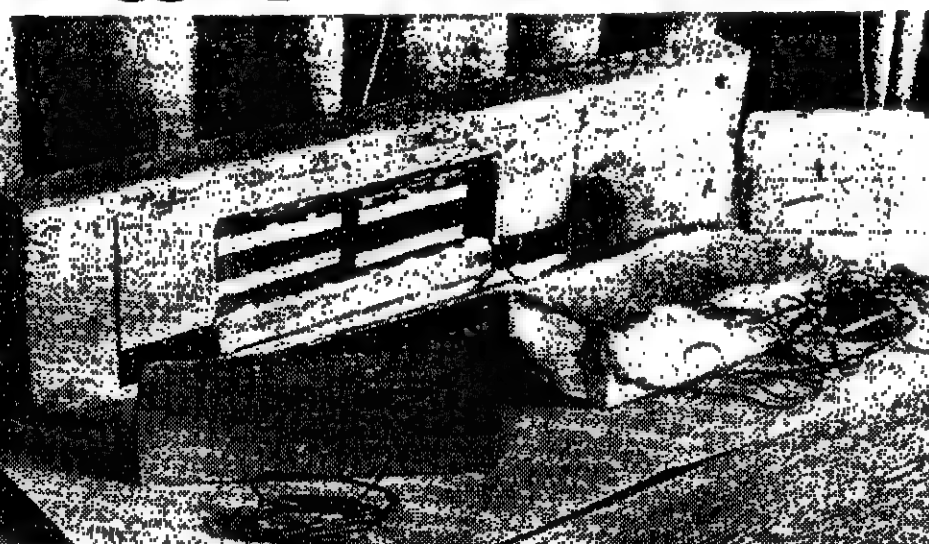
Continued from page 1

Asked if the American state-of-the-art was ahead of the Russian, Mr Miroshkin said: "I will leave technical comparison to the experts. But if they are better I believe they will take it into account in future work."

Further questioned on whether the eavesdropping devices had inflicted any damage, Mr Pyadyshchev said: "That is measured not in money but in political terms, in damage in relations between the two countries, and to the atmosphere in the world."

And in a clear reference to the Shultz talks, he said: "We have not dramatized this situation because of important international dialogue."

The Soviet allegations appeared to be partly confirmed by comments made by Mr John Warncke, who helped designed the \$65 million (£40.6 million) new embassy complex in Washington. He said that in 1979 the US tried to introduce eavesdropping



Alleged American bugging equipment being displayed in Moscow yesterday

devices into flats at the complex.

Discovery of "bugs" led the Soviet Union to disassemble parts of the new chancery building, minutely inspect other parts and X-ray "each inch of steel the night before it was put up". He described

how Soviet workmen moved scaffolding over the entire skin of the building with X-ray equipment looking for "bugs".

Mr Warncke said the Soviet Union paid \$180,000 to have windows and window frames taken apart, inspected and reassembled on the site.

They also paid an extra \$40,000 to \$50,000 for structural steel to be delivered in small loads.

New deliveries of children's "magic slates" were ensuring that diplomats can communicate safely by writing erasable notes to each other.

Range Rover success brings 600 new jobs

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

Land Rover is to create 600 new jobs at its Solihull plant, where production of the Range Rover has reached record levels.

The unexpected news that the workforce of 7,800 is to be substantially increased comes a month after the launch of the Range Rover in the lucrative American market. Land Rover production, however, remains depressed.

The company expects to sell 3,000 Range Rovers in its first year in North America. Production of 15,500 Range Rovers in 1986 is expected to increase to 20,000 this year with British and Continental sales rising by 10 per cent.

Europe already accounts for half the sales of the £18,000

vehicle, and the launch of a long overdue turbocharged diesel version has greatly improved demand in France and Italy, where the derv is relatively inexpensive.

The new jobs will be created across the Solihull site, even though Land Rover output has yet to recover from the slump last year.

Production reached a 30-year low of 21,000 vehicles, compared with more than 50,000 a year in the past. Demand in Britain is still slipping, though a new diesel model has started to lift sales on the Continent.

Low commodity prices and depressed oil revenue have wiped out demand in Third World countries.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Etiquette of how to get thrown out

In the protocol-conscious world of investigative Labour backbenchers, it is considered bad form not to get thrown out of the chamber from time to time.

A campaigning backbencher who has not been ejected from the place at least once is like an American Eng. Lit. professor who has not published anything on the Bloomsbury Group. He can be a perfectly good backbencher. But it looks bad on job applications, such as for membership of the Labour National Executive.

Yesterday, Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab), Regius Professor of Westland Studies on the Labour benches, put a question about some allegedly new evidence in his field. He said it revealed "the depth of the Prime Minister's deception of Parliament in this matter."

It is out of order for one member to accuse another of deception of Parliament. It is in order for one member to accuse another of deception of the electorate. That is because the electorate tends not to take itself seriously. So, before the Secretary for Defence could answer, the Speaker quickly interrupted Mr Dalyell to say: "No one deceives anyone in this place."

He added: "The Hon. Member must rephrase that, please." Mr Dalyell: "I'm saying this as a fair precis of... The Speaker: "Order. I urge the Hon. member to withdraw the remark."

This is the critical moment in any throwing-out. Etiquette dictates that, if the campaigning Labour member has a serious chance of receiving the coveted invitation to get out of the chamber, he should say nothing courteous. On no account should he make any observation which implies that he is withdrawing the remark.

It is also the point at which most members do indeed withdraw the remark or devise a way of saying it in such a way as to bring it within the rules of order. Otherwise campaigning Labour members would be thrown out every day. They would all become eligible to the National Executive. Extra places on that body would have to be found for them.

The electorate for the National Executive is made up of the Labour Party activists. On the whole, such people approve of Parliament only as a place to get thrown out of. But after a while, it would become a point of honour among MPs elected to the National Executive to get thrown out of meetings of that body as well. Labour politicians would start getting elected to it on the strength of their chances of being thrown out of it. The system would break down.

So getting thrown out of the Commons is a tactic to be used sparingly. Not all campaigning Labour backbenchers can be martyrs all the time. It is not like doing your national service in Iran. Fortunately, Mr Dalyell has perfect taste on these occasions, as well as vast experience. Before moving into Westland, he held the Gairdner Chair in Belgrano Scholarship in the same centre of learning. In that capacity, and in other subjects before that, he published several sudden departures from the chamber.

So when the Speaker urged him to withdraw, Mr Dalyell replied: "No, Mr Speaker. The Speaker: 'If the Hon. Member doesn't rephrase his question, I must ask him to resume his seat.'"

Resume his seat? Was that all? For a moment, Mr Dalyell was disconcerted. The traditional climax of the occasion is for him to get thrown out. But here was the Speaker threatening him merely with having to resume his seat. It was obvious that Mr Dalyell thought that this was disgraceful behaviour by the Speaker. He told the Speaker that the only "reasonable thing" to do was to leave the chamber. Mr Dalyell walked out. The authors of manuals of bad behaviour for MPs will argue about it for years. But as far as Mr Dalyell was concerned, it was a throw-out.

What was the Chair coming to, he undoubtedly asked himself, as he nudged away. Asking a chair to resume his seat when he'd just taken the trouble to refuse to withdraw an insult? Happily, breeding showed in the end.

Younger's £300m order bails out Westland

Continued from page 1

on him by stating that overall the Government had "the intention to order" 98 helicopters. Apart from the 25 EH101s and 16 Lynxes announced yesterday, there was also a requirement for 50 of the naval version of the EH101 and another seven Sea King helicopters. Ministry of defence sources claimed that the 98 helicopter orders would be worth about £1 billion.

Mr Younger confirmed that Britain was to pull out of the five European nation collaborative project, NH90, which is at the study phase. Mr Younger said that with the purchase of the EH101 medium helicopter, there was no need for the smaller NH90. The EH 101 is built in collaboration

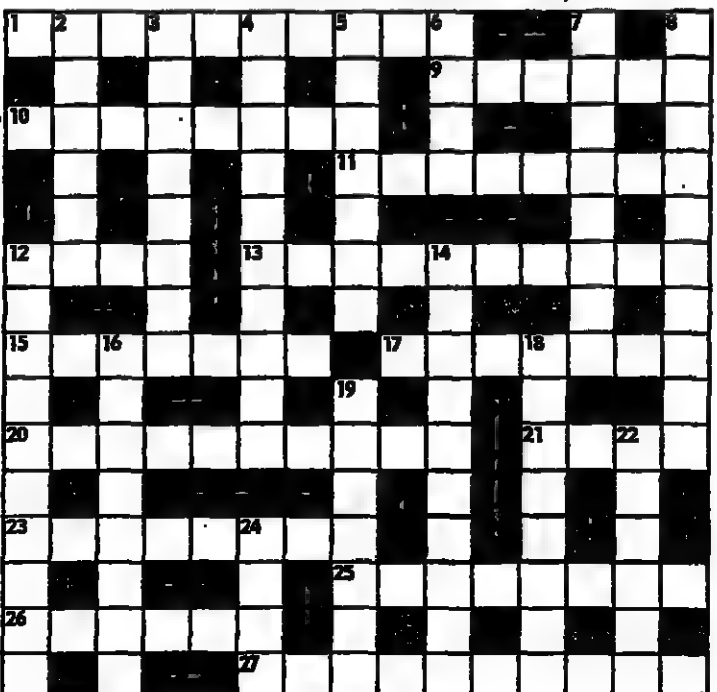
with the Italian company Augusta.

Ministry sources said that the cost of yesterday's orders would be closer to £400 million, which would come out of the defence budget, apart from the £50 million to £100 million for the 16 Lynx helicopters.

The statement by Mr Younger made no reference to the Black Hawk helicopter built by the US company Sikorsky, which bailed out Westland last year. Sikorsky has been told that there will be no requirement for its large helicopter, which is also being manufactured.

Mr Younger denied in the Commons that Sikorsky's stake in Westland had any relevance to the Government decision.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,327



- ACROSS
- 1 Sounds a pitiless task, this embryo French (6-4).
 - 9 Open a French roll (6).
 - 10 How silly goose is immersed in US gaiety (8).
 - 11 Queen Mab "no bigger than an agate-stone" on his forefinger (7 & 7).
 - 12 Old character employed to raise birds, we hear (4).
 - 13 Final result is a goal by offspring (3-7).
 - 15 This chap is silly, at the opposite end to point (3-4).
 - 17 He expels empty-headed Hugo (7).
 - 20 Small boy sounds mad about the Royal Artillery, for example (10).
 - 21 The old school mother left her (4).
 - 23 Future fiancée (8).
 - 25 Very catchy record by Medici originally (8).
 - 26 Braved awkward part of speech (6).
 - 27 Like primordial gods, a destructive antique set (10).

- DOWN
- 2 Is that bird going the other way a greenhorn? Yes (6).
 - 3 Weak drink will hold water (4-4).
 - 4 The price one pays for bargeing? (10).
 - 5 Relating to key features ahead (7).
 - 6 Might he be called a dogged tribesman? (4).
 - 7 Overcome on French Alp (8).
 - 8 The song of Venus, say, to heavenly models (10).
 - 12 With the agreement of both sides, but in pairs perhaps (10).
 - 14 Wheeling about, after right turn (10).
 - 16 Reject development (8).
 - 18 Crazy fireworks (8).
 - 19 Musical prince at university (7).
 - 22 1,000 to one on a place in this setting (6).
 - 24 You won't recover from a bad one (4).

Concise Crossword, page 10

WEATHER
Apart from residual rain over northern isles all districts will begin dry and bright with some morning sunshine. Showers will soon develop in western districts and these will gradually spread eastwards, merging to give longer and heavier outbreaks of rain during the late afternoon and evening before clearer weather follows from the north west. Temperatures will be a little below normal. Outlook: Showers on Saturday will die out in the afternoon giving clear overnight periods with a touch of ground frost. After a dry sunny start on Sunday, cloud and rain will spread across all areas.

ABROAD			AROUND BRITAIN			HIGH TIDES		
MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; h, fog; r, rain; s, sea; w, wind; L, low; H, high.								
Algeria	17-20	21-24	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
Austria	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
Belgium	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
Denmark	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
France	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
Germany	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
Greece	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
Ireland	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
Italy	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
Japan	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
Norway	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
Poland	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
Portugal	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
Romania	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
Spain	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
Sweden	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
Switzerland	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
Turkey	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
USSR	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
USA	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36
Yugoslavia	15-18	16-19	Scot	10-12	11-14	London	12.02	12.36

AM

PM

LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 8.18 pm to 5.45 am
Edinburgh 8.28 pm to 5.48 am
Manchester 8.30 pm to 5.50 am
Penzance 8.37 pm to 6.09 am

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 13C (59F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 6C (43F). Humidity: 6 pm, 71 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.03in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.4hr. Sea: mean sea level, 6 pm, 100.1m. Bar: 1001.3mbars, rising.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 11C (52F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 6C (43F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.13in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.5hr.

NOON TODAY

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1546.2 (-12.4)FT-SE 100
1962.8 (-13.9)Bargains
38099 (37453)USM (Datastream)
164.21 (+0.04)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6180 (+0.0055)W German mark
2.9553 (-0.0085)Trade-weighted
72.2 (-0.2)Simon lifts
profits
to £28m

Simon Engineering, the process plant contracting and engineering company, which recently fought off a £202 million management buy-in bid by Valuedale, the shelf company, yesterday reported profits of £27.98 million for last year, up from £26.13 million in 1985.

Turnover dipped to £503.32 million last year from £539.35 in 1985, with earnings per share at 29.3p, compared with 29.2p previously. Simon is paying a final dividend of 8.8p, making 11.5p for the year.

£66m Wimpey
George Wimpey, Britain's largest housebuilder in 1986, selling 10,712 homes, yesterday reported pretax profits for the year up from £46.9 million to £66.5 million. Turnover fell 8 per cent to £1.46 billion. *Temps page 20*

In tomorrow's *Family Money*, what the Finance Bill published on Wednesday means to your pension prospects, why investors wanting a stake in Rolls-Royce may be in for a big disappointment and advice on how to complete your tax return.

RTZ slips

Despite a strong recovery in the second half of the year, profits at the Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation slipped to £245 million for the twelve months to the end of December 1986 compared to £257 million the previous year.

Temps page 20

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2348.72 (-22.44)
Dow Jones	2348.72 (-22.44)
Nikkei Dow	22822.20 (+9.21)
Hong Kong	2786.47 (+58.47)
Amsterdam	389.4 (+0.8)
Sydney	1771.6 (+13.3)
Frankfurt	1843.7 (-2.8)
Brussels	4887.17 (+33.82)
Paris	482.9 (+3.2)
Zurich	514.0 (+0.2)
London	1546.2 (-12.4)
FT 100	1962.8 (-13.9)
FT 30	1546.2 (-12.4)

London Bank Base	10%
3-month interbank	9.5%
3-month eligible bills	9.5%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	7.4%
Federal Funds Rate	6.5%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.63-5.82%
30-year bonds	9.4-9.4%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£/\$	1.6180 (+0.0055)
£/DM	2.9553 (-0.0085)
£/Sfr	2.4521 (+0.01)
£/FF	6.5596 (+0.01)
£/Yen	239.46 (+0.01)
£/Index	72.2 (-0.2)
ECU	1.3660 (+0.001)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER	1543p (+38p)
BOC Group	456p (+22p)
Dale Electric	106p (+13p)
Crown House	360p (+13p)
Atlantic Computer	644p (+32p)
Concar	618p (+113p)
IBL	113p (+20p)
T. Cowie	417p (+20p)
J. England	130p (+25p)
De La Rue	401p (+21p)
Lambert Horwath	315p (+35p)
Wellcome	385p (+15p)
Wardle Stores	485p (+30p)
AB Ports	485p (+15p)
London United	533p (+80p)
Holistic Bar	530p (+80p)
Unilever	2708p (+98p)

FALLS	
BP	878p (-22p)
Coloroll	315p (-12p)
BPCC	313p (-18p)

GOLD

London Fixing	
AM \$251.50-252.10	
Close \$251.75-252.25	
251.25	
New York	
Comex \$426.60-427.10	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) pm	\$18.00/bbl (\$17.85)
Denotes latest trading price	

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£134m plan to end insurance market's shameful episode

Lloyd's tables
PCW solution

By John Bell, City Editor

Lloyd's of London has proposed a final solution to the long-running PCW scandal described by Mr Peter Miller, the Lloyd's chairman, yesterday as "one of the most shameful episodes in the history of Lloyd's".

It arose after the two founders of the PCW syndicates, Mr Peter Cameron-Webb and Mr Peter Dixon, misappropriated £40 million over a period of years. Since then, gross underwriting losses have soared, leaving underwriting members or "names" liable personally for sums as high as £1.4 million.

The proposed solution reduces the gross liability of names by about 75 per cent after contributions from Lloyd's itself and other parties involved in the affair. The plan calls on approximately 3,000 names to pay sums of up to £200,000 each towards a net figure of £134 million, which Lloyd's says would be needed to settle the affair finally.

In addition to £34 million which would be provided by names, Lloyd's itself offers to contribute £48 million from its central fund, which now stands at £311 million.

The balance of £55 million will come mainly from companies which are potential defendants of legal claims in the PCW affair and which, according to Lloyd's, may be under a legal or moral responsibility to syndicate members.

These companies have agreed to contribute on the basis that they deny liability and that if the settlement is not agreed, they will fight legal actions brought by names. The companies include the accountancy firm of Joselyne, Layton-Bennet, the auditor to the PCW syndicates, Minet Group, which owned the

PCW underwriting agency, and Alexander Howden, through whose companies PCW funds were siphoned abroad. No details of individual contributions are being given.

The Lloyd's proposals remain open until May 30 and need the support of at least 90 per cent of the names involved. "Without this settlement, members of the PCW syndicates face years of uncertainty," Mr Miller said. "While members may after years of litigation establish legal rights against some of the parties responsible for the PCW affair, the full enforcement of those rights may not be possible," he added.

He summed up the proposals as a fair and reasonable final settlement for the members of the PCW syndicates.

Sir Ian Morrow, the chairman of Additional Underwriting Agencies (No3), a company set up to protect the interests of names, yesterday recommended the offer.

"We believe that acceptance will be seen to be in the best interests of the very large majority of names because it achieves a final resolution of the PCW affair," he said.

A separate set of proposals is being put before members of three syndicates peripherally involved in the affair. They were also recommended by Sir Ian.

The plans outlined yesterday were the results of nine months of negotiations between the parties concerned. Gross liabilities of the syndicates affected were calculated to be £680 million. Taking account of assets, including expected insurance recoveries, the net liability

reduced to £235 million. The £134 million cash fund needed now is to meet present and future liabilities.

A key feature is the arrangement to finalize all future liabilities of the PCW members. Lloyd's will set up what it describes as a "dummy syndicate" which would offer a "reinsurance to close" contract, bringing all future involvement of the names to an end.

The syndicate, 9001, will consist of Mr Miller and Lloyd's two deputy chairmen, who will neither benefit nor lose from the arrangements. Syndicate 9001 will be re-insured by Lionover Insurance, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lloyd's specially created for the purpose. Lloyd's will therefore take responsibility for any deterioration of claims experience during the run-off of the business and any failure of the PCW reinsurance arrangements.

Mr Miller revealed yesterday that Lloyd's is pressing ahead with civil actions against Mr Cameron-Webb and Mr Dixon, who are both excluded from the terms of the offer. Mr Dixon's wife is also excluded. "We are pursuing them with some vigour," Mr Miller said.

Special arrangements may be made to help names who might face financial difficulty in meeting the terms of the proposals. More than 30 names would be due to find amounts between £100,000 and £200,000.

One hundred names would have to pay between £60,000 and £100,000. If anyone has a problem, we would like to hear from him," Mr Miller said. A PCW inquiry desk has been set up.



Cameron-Webb involved in misappropriating £40 million

Bond company to take
stake in satellite TV

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

Mr Alan Bond, the Australian entrepreneur, plans to expand his media holdings in Britain under the auspices of a new subsidiary to be floated on the Australian stock exchange next month.

The company, Bond Media, is expected to take a £30 million minority stake in the British Satellite Broadcasting consortium, which plans to launch a satellite television service in 1989.

Mr Bond said he is continuing to examine a number of other opportunities in electronic media, but refused to be specific other than to say he has no plans to buy newspapers or magazines.

Mr Bond, aged 48, emigrated to Australia 35 years ago from Ealing, west London. He has built a business spanning brewing, mining and property. In January, he became the owner of Australia's

largest commercial television network. He said yesterday that the 20-year and 50-year plans for his new company call for it to become the dominant entertainment and information company in Australia.

Mr Bond's new company, to be listed on the Australian Associated Stock Exchanges, will be 50 per cent owned by Bond Corporation and 12 per cent by Dalhousie, a company personally controlled by Mr Bond. Of the remaining shares, 25 per cent have been reserved for other holders of Bond Corporation shares.

Pergamon Holdings and its associated companies, as part of its diversification in electronic media, newspaper ownership, cable and satellite television, have sold 30 million ordinary shares in the British Printing & Communications Corporation and 70.5 million ordinaries in Hollis.

IMF forecasts
slowdown in
world growth

From Bailey Morris and Rodney Lord, Washington

New forecasts for the world economy presented yesterday to the interim committee meeting of the International Monetary Fund raised fears of a growth recession.

The IMF now expects the industrialized nations to grow by only 2 1/2 per cent this year after 2 1/2 per cent growth last year. A year ago, the fund was forecasting much higher growth in 1986 of 3 per cent and faster, rather than slower, growth in 1987 of 3 1/2 per cent.

At the meeting yesterday, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, emphasized the importance of exchange rate stability to allow the world economy to adjust to present imbalances and resume a faster rate of growth. He said the world was suffering from two economic shocks — last year's fall in oil and other commodity prices and the drop over the past two years in the value of the dollar.

At a press conference earlier, Mr Lawson said the reaffirmation of the Paris accord on exchange rate stability by the Group of Seven the previous day was a satisfactory result that had also been welcomed in the wider forum of the Group of Ten.

He said the agreement had been strengthened particularly in relation to Japan, which he described as the one weakness of the Paris accord.

Mr Lawson stressed that proposals for bringing forward public works and introducing a large supplementary budget in Japan were additional to the promises made in Paris. It is almost unprecedented for a country to be singled out in a G7 communiqué.

Earlier, the Chancellor met Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese finance minister, to discuss protectionism. At his press conference Mr Lawson said: "At the highest level I think the Japanese are genuine in seeking to reduce their

protectionist barriers and make their markets more open. What appears to be happening is that the bureaucracy is resisting this change of approach."

Mr Lawson emphasized that a commitment to exchange rate stability would not be enough by itself. "If we will the ends we must will the means," he said, stressing that monetary policies needed to be consistent with exchange rate stability.

In present circumstances, consistent policies were more likely to point to a cut in interest rates in Japan and West Germany, the two surplus countries, rather than an increase in the US, the principle deficit country. "An effective commitment to stable exchange rates can itself be an important discipline to encourage compatible policies," he added.

Non-American members of the G7 were, however, concerned about the slow progress in reducing the US budget deficit and anxious that the US might not continue the process of reduction for long enough. Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, pledged that the Administration would do everything in its power to prevent protectionist legislation going through Congress — a reference to certain parts of the Trade Bill.

The G7 has continued to refuse to indicate what kind of exchange rate ranges were implied by the Paris agreement, or whether they had changed since the fall in the dollar-yen rate. The communiqué said: "The ministers and governors reaffirmed the view that around current levels their currencies are within ranges broadly consistent with economic fundamentals and the basic policy intentions outlined at the Louvre meeting."

Dollar hits 40-year low
against yen on G7 talks

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The dollar plunged to a 40-year low against the yen last night as dealers registered their disappointment at the outcome of the Group of Seven meeting.

It closed at ¥145 in London, before dipping to ¥144.30 in New York. Dealers said further dollar weakness after the Washington meetings could be expected.

By focusing on the need for action by Japan, the G7 communiqué had pinpointed the vulnerability of current dollar-yen levels, analysts said.

The Bank of Japan was reported to be intervening

quite heavily around the ¥145 level in support of the dollar. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York also bought dollars. Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese finance minister, said current dollar-yen levels were not out of line with the G7 agreements. But dealers believe the dollar has reached the bottom of its permitted range against the yen.

Sterling lost ground against the mark, falling 1 1/2 pence to DM2.9518, but gained 55 points to \$1.6180. The sterling index dropped by 0.2 to 72.2. Analysts believe the pound could suffer if there is a period of sustained dollar weakness.

'Pressure' for Panel to fall in
with Financial Services Act

By Lawrence Lever

The Government is understood to be putting pressure on the Securities and Investments Board to bring the Takeover Panel within the regime of the Financial Services Act.

If successful, this would undermine the non-statutory and flexible nature of the Panel's control on takeovers. In particular, it would mean that the breach of a Panel rule would give any party suffering damage as a result the right to bring an action for breach of statutory duty.

The Treasury, through the Bank of England, is understood to be behind the pressure on the SIB. The Bank is a party in the current review of the Panel's rules by regulatory authorities.

The idea is that the SIB's rulebook should incorporate a rule stipulating that all investment businesses — including merchant banks — must comply with the Panel's rules.

The self-regulating organizations would also be obliged

to include this rule in their rulebooks due to the requirement that the SRO's rules should provide equivalent investor protection as those of the SIB.

However, the Treasury's plan would meet with opposition from the Panel and senior figures within the City's self-regulatory network. Objections voiced so far call the plan an unconstitutional backdoor attempt to bring the Panel within the Financial Services Act.

Hammerson profits
rise 23% to £49.3m

By Alexandra Jackson

The Hammerson Property Investment and Development Corporation yesterday reported pretax profits up 23 per cent to £49.3 million in the year ended December 31. This included £6.7 million of gross profits from property trading, compared with £3.6 million in 1985. Gross rental income rose from £116.5 million to £127.7 million and the asset value from 559p to 610p.

Hammerson's portfolio has a strong international bias. At the end of 1986, 40 per cent of its net rental income came from the United Kingdom, with Canada accounting for 29 per cent, Australasia 21 per cent and the United States 5 per cent. Hammerson's involvement in continental

Europe is increasing — last year it accounted for 5 per cent of net rental income and this is expected to increase this year. Currency movements had a less dramatic effect on Hammerson's results last year than they did in 1985 when they were responsible for reducing pretax profits by nearly £10 million.

Mr Sydney Mason, chairman and managing director of Hammerson, said yesterday: "I am optimistic about the current year, firstly because of Hammerson's great spread of international properties, and secondly because we have no exposure to the City of London where there will soon be considerable oversupply of office space."

Coloroll pays £90m for
Crown House group

By Joe Joseph

Coloroll, the rapidly growing wallpaper and home furnishings group, continued its recent buying spree yesterday with an agreed takeover of the engineering services and tableware group Crown House.

The deal, which will be Coloroll's largest acquisition to date, values Crown House at around £90 million.

Coloroll has been stalking Crown's loss-making tableware division, which turns out Denby stoneware. Thomas Webb and Edinburgh crystal, George Butler cutlery and Dema glass, and was at one time contemplating putting in a bid for the tableware activities alone.

Both companies have substantial businesses in the US and Coloroll feels the acquisition

of Crown's tableware division will dovetail well with its own operations, providing opportunities for common sales and marketing activities. Coloroll is offering one of its own shares, which slipped 10p to 330p yesterday on news of the recommended bid, for every Crown House ordinary share. They rose 68p to 303p. There is a 300p cash alternative.

Coloroll's offer values each Crown House share at 32p against a closing price on Wednesday of 235p. Based on Crown's reported pretax profits of £7.16 million for the year ended March 31, 1986, Coloroll's offer represents an exit price/earnings ratio of 18.6.

G7 gives new warning to Japan

From Our Correspondents in Washington

Japan has been put on notice by the industrialized countries that it must take specific steps to implement the newly reaffirmed Paris Accord or face additional actions at the Venice summit of Western leaders in June.

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, said yesterday it was "even more essential now", in the context of rising protectionism and Japan's huge surplus, that it live up to the specific measures agreed in Washington. Mr Lawson, while welcoming Japan's commitment to a two-stage \$36 billion growth programme, gave warning that the industrialized countries expect specific results and would review the situation at the Venice summit in June. British officials said, in taking the almost unprecedented action of singling out a specific nation in the communiqué, that the Group of Seven had

signalled that their patience was at an end. Other countries, notably South Korea and the newly developing countries, described the communiqué as "a weak response to a worsening problem".

Officials declined to say whether the new Japanese commitment would be sufficient to cool strong protectionist pressures in the US Congress and to forestall additional restrictive measures against Japan by European countries. Mr Lawson met the Japanese finance minister privately to discuss Britain's concerns on Japan's telecommunications policies and reciprocity on financial services.

The Reagan administration has come under strong pressure to take the unprecedented action of filing a broad condemnation of Japan's trade and economic policies with the General Agreement

on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva, sources said.

Senator Robert Packwood, a leading Republican on the finance committee, planned to introduce a new amendment to the US trade Bill scheduled for action later this month that would require the Administration to ask for relief from Japan's closed-door policies and huge trade surpluses in a Gatt filing.

If the US takes this step, it is likely to be followed by additional action by the EEC countries. EEC officials said the Article 23 filing, the broadest measure which can be taken against Japan, was now under review. "This will be a matter decided at cabinet level. We have not yet taken a formal position," said a spokesman for Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US Trade Representative. Mr Lawson said: "It is

particularly true that we wish to see the Japanese commitment fully carried out. He was responding to questions over whether the industrialized world was taking a sceptical view of the Japanese commitment.

The accord signed late on Wednesday was almost identical to the February 22 Paris agreement with the exception that it contained a specific pledge from Japan to stimulate its slowing economy and to open its markets. The agreement was regarded as a political commitment by the ruling party of Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the prime minister, despite strong opposition in the Japanese bureaucracy.

The agreement was signed as Japanese negotiators continued their talks with US officials in Washington in an attempt to avert a trade war over \$300 million worth of tariffs on Japanese goods.

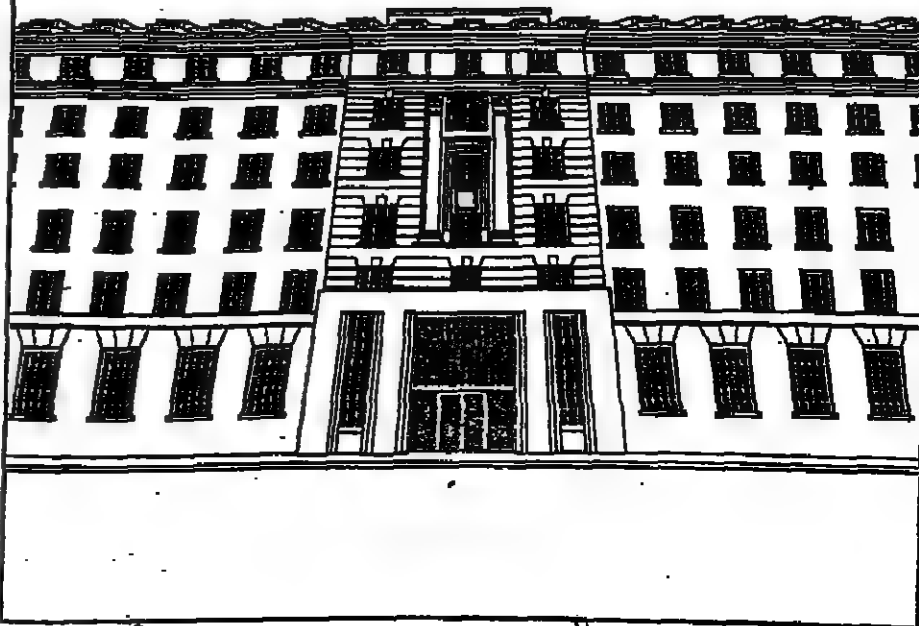
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STOCK MARKET

Shares sink on political fears but takeover stocks shine

By Cliff Feltham

Equities spent much of yesterday marking time, although some special-situation shares broke into a canter.

But the mood was of uncertainty over the timing of the general election and with it the prospect of any cuts in base rates. Dealers also failed to find any inspiration from the Group of Seven meeting in Washington.

So attention was focused on companies affected by trading statements or involved in takeover speculation.

As a result, the broadly-based FT-SE 100 index, which at one time managed to rise by 14.9 points, finished the day 13.9 down at 1,962.8. The FT 30 Share index closed 12.4 lower at 1,546.2.

Prices towards the end of the day were not helped by a weak start on Wall Street where, at one time, the Dow Jones industrial average was down by just above 20 points.

Government stocks were dull, off by 5% on worries that US interest rates could be forced up if the G7 meeting fails to find a solution to underpin the dollar.

Among equities, Unilever was again prominent on plans for the sale of its US chemicals business. The shares finished 98p higher at 2,708p.

Glaxo, with interim figures due next Monday, was 38p higher at 1,543p. RTZ, another heavyweight, was 14p better at 863p on satisfactory results.

Astute Computers jumped 49p to 641p on its agreed bid for Comcap - up 107p at 622p - to create a £480 million business.

Grampian Holdings, the Glasgow-based industrial conglomerate, was good for a 17p gain to 265p on the back of firm buying and a bullish circular - thought from BZW - likely to reach the market today.

The board of Martin Ford, the menswear shops group, said it had noted the rise in the share price and, although it is talking to people about possible acquisitions, nothing is on the cards at the moment. The shares eased 2p at 98p.

Lloyd's settlement terms to finally sort out the PCW scandal left insurance brokers mixed. Minet Holdings surrendered 10p to 271p. PWS Holdings gave up 3p at 314p, while Sedgwick was off 5p at 311p.

W. Canning, the West Midlands manufacturer of chemicals, electronics and metals, appears to be stuck - the share price was hovering at about

193p yesterday - after a rapid rise this year.

The company has acquired a glittery image in recent months by becoming an emerging force in the United States medical services market, while profits recently came out 62 per cent higher at just above £3 million after a good performance from most of the group.

One of the best showings of the day came from T. Cowie, the motor distribution and finance company. Mr Tom Cowie, the chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that the company was on target for growth this year. It had arranged a more favourable line of credit with the Canadian Imperial Bank

of Commerce and in the first three months of the current year profits were at record levels "indicating that the results for 1987 will show a substantial improvement over those for 1986."

The shares jumped by 52p to 447p. Last year, the company more than doubled its profits to £8.2 million at a time when many in the trade were finding it hard to make money out of selling cars because the motor companies had clamped down on bonuses.

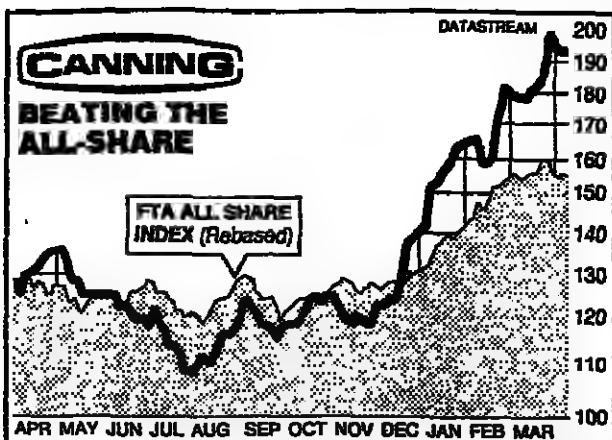
At the same time, it abandoned plans to float off its contract-hire and leasing division because the business was doing so well.

Cowie wanted to buy Appleby, the Jaguar dealers, last year, but the motor company blocked the deal.

But it is now sitting on a stake in the Godfrey Davis garage group as well as a near 15 per cent holding in Lookers, the country's biggest Vauxhall dealers and some action on the bid front could be sooner rather than later.

Elsewhere, the motor sector looked sluggish, with Calfins managing a 5p improvement to 413p. Glenfield Lawrence up 1p at 122p, while Lex Service came back 10p at 409p.

Boddington, the northern brewers - which does not pull as many pints as it would like



in the unemployment blackspots of the north-west - has got a vote of approval from Phillips & Drew, the broker.

Mr Eric Frankis, an analyst, says the shares do not look expensive and heavy investment in the licensed estate should keep profits on the advance in the current year - he expects to see an increase from £14.4 million to £16.4 million.

But the market seems to be taking the view that the shares have already come up far enough for the time being - rising from a low of 87p to yesterday's 138p, down 1p on the day.

Whitbread Investment Company holds a 22 per cent stake in Boddington and that rules out a bid from anyone else - at least for the time being, according to some opinion in the market.

Extel appears to be defying gravity following Mr Robert Maxwell's announcement ear-

lier this week that he would not, after all, be bidding for the news information group.

There were predictions that the shares would drop at least towards the 450p level. In the event, they were finding support yesterday at 477p, up 2p on the day. Talks are still taking place to find a home for Mr Maxwell's shares.

A big jump in profits at Connells, the estate agency chain, caused the shares to perk up. Earnings rose from £2.2 million to £5.2 million, hoisting the shares by 7p at one stage before they settled at 341p, up 5p.

Addison Consultancy Group - created from the merger of Addison Page and Chetwynd Streets last year - drifted 6p lower at 150p, despite unveiling a 43 per cent jump in pretax profits to £6.34 million.

There were few dealers willing to put out the welcome mat for the hotel sector, which was marked down across the board, although Grand Metro-

politan found support with a 5p rise to 481p. County Securities, the broker, is ranking the shares as a "buy." It says that overall strategy will result in the group becoming an aggressive, international consumer products company "using its considerable asset-base to promote significant earnings growth next year and beyond."

Friendly Hotels, which earlier this week asked shareholders for £8.5 million to help its expansion plans, was down 2p at 245p, with Queens Moat falling a similar amount to 81p.

Stakis shed 2p at 102p. Trusthouse Forte lost 1p at 228p and the thrashing Mount Charlotte group eased 3p at 117p. Even so, dealers are not despondent and predictions of

a good summer for the tourist trade are expected to keep the sector buoyant over the coming months.

Date Electric climbed by another 13p to 106p, having firmly rejected the takeover bid from Sunlight Electronics, as the market senses the prospect of a heated battle for control of the business.

Crown House, the manufacturer of tableware and giftware, soared 68p to 303p following the £90 million, agreed bid from Coleroll, Mr John Asticoff's company, the shares of which came back by 12p to 318p on the news.

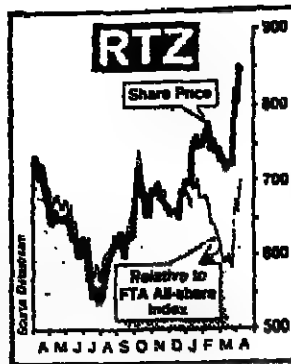
Wardle Stores, the industrial conglomerate in the middle of a £48 million bid battle for Chamberlain Phipps, rose by a further 30p to 495p - making a two-day gain of 48p. This followed trebled profits at the interim stage.

The market thought that it would be receiving profit figures from Aberdeen Steak Houses, the USM-quoted restaurant chain, but heard nothing. The shares stayed at 65p.

● TOKYO: The Nikkei Dow index rose from 22,912.99 to 22,922.20. Shares inched to a third consecutive record after reports of government warnings to big securities houses about an overheated market undercut an earlier rally.

TEMPUS

RTZ reaps industrial rewards in tough year



Wimpey

Unveiling Wimpey's results is less nerve-racking than it used to be. Exceptional provisions are no longer a main feature although they are not yet a thing of the past. A further £3 million was provided last year against a Singapore contract which had reduced 1985 results by £11.6 million.

Margins are widening as is the pre-interest return on capital employed - it rose in 1986 from less than 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent. The target is 20 per cent.

Operating efficiency is still improving. The rationalization of engineering and offshore work will reduce losses - estimated to be up to £5 million in 1986. There are plans about which will have a significant impact on costs.

Despite protestations to the contrary, the group must be pleased to be Britain's biggest housebuilder, although Tarmac may win the 1987 race.

The increasing proportion of houses in the South is widening margins. However, land costs money and Wimpey spent an additional £33 million in 1986.

The South accounts for 50 per cent of unit sales but locks up 70 per cent of its capital. Overseas housing added 15 per cent to British completions of 10,712.

Property will experience the calm before the storm this year. The go-ahead for the Little Britain development, in the City of London, is expected at the end of the month. The scheme is expected to cost £100 million to develop.

Wimpey's balance sheet is strengthening with gearing down to 38 per cent. Off balance sheet debt fell 22 per cent to £33 million.

The quality of Wimpey's earnings is higher than in the dark days of the early Eighties. However, investors are no longer prepared to be grateful if their investment in the sector manages just to produce a steady earnings progression. Indeed there are plenty about who have shaken off the industry's accident prone image and are genuinely growing.

On 1987 estimates of £77 million, the shares, on p/c of 10.7 times, do not look outstandingly cheap.

Burmah Oil

Burmah Oil needs to do two things if it wants to brighten up its investment image and improve prospects for shareholders. First, drop "oil" from its name now that it no longer manages exploration companies. Second, find a sizeable British acquisition and so escape from its Advanced Corporation Tax (ACT) problem.

The ACT problem meant it had to write-off £7.6 million against net profits in the year ended December, which effectively robbed it of an additional 4p a share.

So while Burmah was able to show it has successfully reorganized on the basis of three core businesses, which in turn saw pretax profits rise from £79.6 million to £105.9 million, and beat market estimates, performance at the net earnings level was nothing to shout about.

Partly because of higher issued capital after the £86 million May rights issue, made at 310p a share, and because of the ACT problem, net earnings turned out at 33.54p against 34.3p a share.

Burmah spent more than £40 million on at least eight acquisitions during 1986, with considerable investment funds going into Castrol and specialty chemicals. The upshot is that profits from lubricants and fuels advanced from £66.6 million to £93.1 million, while within specialty chemicals profits marched from £7.8 million to £11.7 million, of which at least £2 million was contributed by recent acquisitions.

For a British-based group which markets and trades internationally, the profit contribution from home operations remains inadequate. Hence the need to find something suitable, and sizeable, at home.

Trading conditions so far in 1987 have been reasonable, and though it may be a push, profits this year of £124 million should not be out of reach. The shares at 465p on a price earnings ratio of 12.6 are attractive for a group which now appears to know where it is going, and which promises a progressive dividend policy.

ALPHA STOCKS

Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000
Allied-Lyons	1,200	English China	280	Rank Org	418
Amsted	2,000	Flaxton	1,200	Rank Hovis	220
Anglo	1,500	Gen Accident	400	Reckitt	1,200
ASDA-MFI	1,100	GEC	12,000	Reckitt Colman	678
Ass Br Foods	938	Gileo	3,500	Reed Int	1,300
BET	1,000	Globe IT	1,400	Reunert	1,100
BETH	7,200	Graham	1,200	RTZ	111
BAT	1,200	Grand Met	2,800	RTZ	4,300
Bancryl	1,700	GUS 24	828	Rover	1,000
Bass	1,000	GUE	443	Royal B of Scot	198
Beaumont	6,000	GKN	720	Royal Int	400
Blue Circle	80	Glenfarms	3,300	Saatchi	1,000
BOC	2,900	Harcourt	3,300	Sainsbury (A)	153
Bovis	6,000	Hawker Siddeley	233	Sears	10,000
BPB Int	298	Hilldown	732	Seagrow Sp	708
BRCC	9,800	Imp Chem Ind	1,200	Shell	5,100
Br Petroleum	2,500	Imp Cont Gas	778	Smith & Nephew	1,700
Br Airways	9,500	Jaguar	1,500	STC	5,200
Br Comm	2,300	Ladbrokes	1,400	Sten Chem	1,700
Br Ore	27,000	Land Securities	274	Stenhouse	1,300
Br Telecom	6,400	Leisure & Gen	4,100	Sun Alliance	1,400
Bristol	4,100	Lloyds	404	Tarmac	280
Brunel	888	Lonrho	1,000	TBS P/P	2,300
Burns	4,500	Martins & Spencer	8,200	Tesco	1,800
Butterfield	2,700	MIFC	425	Thorn EMI	858
Cadbury Schwepp	2,800	Midland	192	Thornagar House	3,100
Castle Vynell	244	Nat West	1,000	Trusthouse Forte	850
Com Union	871	P & O Div	626	Unilever	622
Cornwallis	810	Peterson	5,500	Unilever	622
Cookson Grp	2,000	Pittman Bros	393	Unilever	622
Courtauld	753	Plessey	5,100	Unilever	622
Dair Corp	3,800	Prudential	1,800	Unilever	622
Demon Grp	2,000	Racal Elect	8,100	Unilever	622

PRELIMINARY RESULTS TO 31 DECEMBER 1986

Burmah

PROFIT GROWTH UNDERPINS EXPANSION PLANS

Record profits from Castrol and Specialty Chemicals
Pre-tax profit up 33 per cent
Dividend increased by 10 per cent

Significant strategic developments have put Burmah in a strong financial position. The Group is well placed to seize new investment opportunities.

	1986 £ million	1985 £ million
Profit before tax	105.9	79.6
Profit after tax	56.0	52.1
Earnings per stock unit	33.54pence*	34.3 pence
Net assets per stock unit	254pence	229pence
Net gearing	2.2%	29.8%

THE BURMAH OIL PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

The directors are recommending a final net dividend of 9.5p per £1 unit of ordinary stock. Together with the interim dividend paid last December, this will increase the total of net ordinary dividends in respect of 1986 to 14.0p per £1 unit of ordinary stock. The final dividend, if approved, will be paid on 17 July 1987 to stockholders on the register on 15 May 1987.

The figures for 1986 are abridged from the Group's full accounts. The Annual Report and Accounts for 1986 will be published on 5 May 1987, and filed with the Registrar of Companies after the AGM, to be held on 29 May 1987. If you would like to receive a copy of the Annual Report please write to The Secretary, The Burmah Oil plc, Burmah House, Pipers Way, Swindon, Wilts, SN3 1RE.

IN GREAT SHAPE FOR GROWTH

SIMON ENGINEERING

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

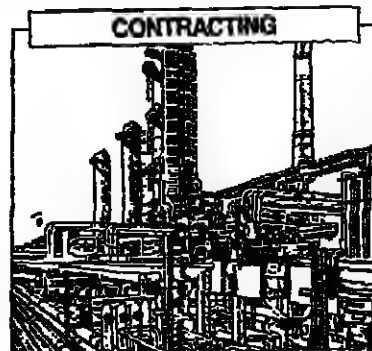
Continuing profit growth from a well-balanced spread of activities

Group results for the year ended 31 December 1986	1986 £'000	1985 £'000
Turnover	503,317	539,350
Profit before tax	27,982	26,124
Profit after tax	19,631	19,697
Profit before extraordinary items	18,381	18,242
Extraordinary items:		
Bid defence costs	(2,850)	-
Cessation of activities	(4,259)	(8,640)
Profit for the financial year	11,272	9,602
Dividends	(7,441)	(5,487)
Profit retained	3,831	4,115
Earnings per Ordinary share before extraordinary items	29.3p	29.2p

The accounts above are abridged versions of the audited accounts for which the reports of the auditors were unqualified. The 1985 accounts will be filed with the Registrar of Companies.

- Fifteenth successive year of profit growth
- Visible benefits accrue from strategic investments in manufacturing operations

- 35% increase in total dividend
- International scope expanded by means of carefully selected acquisitions



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"...our activities, especially those operating in and exporting from the UK, should benefit from the continuing improvement in the economic and trading position of this country...management is looking for further profit improvement in 1987."

Harry Harrison, Chairman

SIMON ENGINEERING PLC
Cheadle Heath, Stockport, Cheshire SK3 0RT

Secret £3m claim by Guinness 'scurrilous'

By Lawrence Lever

Mr Thomas Ward, a Guinness director, yesterday accused the company of coordinating a worldwide campaign against him so as to "create the appearance" of "a desperate international hunt for money allegedly to have been secreted mysteriously" by him.

He described as "scurrilous and insupportable" Guinness's claim that he had agreed a secret deal for Mr Ernest Saunders, the former chairman and chief executive, to receive a £3 million payment from the company.

Mr Ward's evidence was in an affidavit read out in the High Court in London on the second day of a hearing to determine whether orders freezing Mr Ward's and Mr Saunders's British assets should stand.

Guinness obtained the orders as part of its legal proceedings against both men over a £5.2 million payment made to a Jersey nominee company.

Mr Ward claims the payment was made in return for services he provided during the takeover of the Distillers Company.

Guinness is seeking the return of the money and alleged on Wednesday that £3 million of it was a secret payment to Mr Saunders. Mr Saunders denies that he had any beneficial interest in the money.

Yesterday Mr Ward revealed he had used \$4.715 million (£2.87 million) of the money "to pay US tax obligations".

Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, told Mr Peter Curry, QC, counsel for Mr Ward, that he should obtain details from his client of when the tax was actually



Guinness directors at odds in the High Court: Thomas Ward (left) and Shaun Dowling

paid and what exactly it was in respect of.

Mr Ward added in his affidavit that he would obtain a tax refund, which he was advised he could do, in the event of the court ruling in favour of Guinness.

He described the affidavit of Mr Shaun Dowling, a Guinness director, as "grossly inaccurate" and said that Mr Dowling "had absolutely no involvement in, or personal knowledge of, the events at issue".

He claimed that in January this year Mr Dowling had told him that "you cannot afford to stand up to a fight against the Guinness treasury".

"Each of Guinness's lawsuits have been accompanied by banner headlines aimed at bolstering Guinness's image at the expense of myself. Such news accounts can only be the products of leaks from Guinness," he said.

"It would appear that Guinness has far preferred to demonstrate to the public and its shareholders that its new management is pursuing all claims, regardless of wisdom or cost, to demonstrate vigilance and that board members who previously managed the company's affairs are now regarded as enemies of the company," he added.

He accused Guinness of failing to pay \$600,000 of fees due to his American law firm. He asserts that the injunction to freeze his assets was unnecessary since, he says, he offered to put "the relevant sums" in an escrow account.

Mr Dowling, in his affidavit, described the offer as a "ploy". Mr Ward details the services which he claims to have provided in return for the £3.2 million and accuses Guinness of "a disingenuous attempt to belittle" them.

As for the fee of £5.2 million, Mr Ward described this as "a success fee, not uncommon in the United States". It was aimed at compensating him for being separated from his family and sidetracked from his law practice. It was also meant to "reflect both the monumental benefit to Guinness of a successful bid for Distillers and the risk inherent in a success fee".

The judge said that he was "mystified" as to what the agreement between Mr Ward and Mr Saunders had been. In the Jersey court proceedings it had been claimed that a fixed fee would be paid, while on Wednesday Mr Saunders had said that a fee of £2.5 million had been agreed and was to be doubled if Guinness won Distillers.

The hearing continues today.

Bellwinch valued at £35m after placing

By Alexandra Jackson

More than 10 million shares in Bellwinch, the South of England housebuilder, were placed at 115p yesterday by Hill Samuel & Co, the merchant bank. The market capitalisation of the company after the placing is £35.7 million.

The 7.6 million new ordinary shares being issued will raise £8.3 million after expenses. On a forecast profit for the year to the end of June of £4.6 million, the shares at the placing price are selling on 11.4 times fully diluted earnings.

Bellwinch sells houses ranging in price from £25,000 to £186,000 under the name Roger Malcolm in London and the Home Counties, King Homes in Swindon and Webb Homes in Hampshire. It is a prominent developer in London's Docklands.

In the year to June 1986, Bellwinch completed 481 houses, but this year, because of the changing mix of the business, completions may be lower.

Application is being made to the Stock Exchange for the shares to be admitted to the Official List. Dealings are expected to start on April 16.

Commentators have drawn comparisons between this placing and the offer for sale for shares in another housebuilder, Charles Church, which closed oversubscribed yesterday morning.

Charles Church's shares were offered on a higher price earnings ratio, and City analysts were unhappy that much of the money raised is being taken out of the business. This is not so in the case of Bellwinch.

Lex buys three Sears motor distributors

Shaw & Kilburn, SMT and Gilbert Rice motor distributors are changing hands in a deal that values them at £83.4 million.

The buyer is Lex Service Group which is the sole Volvo importer in Britain and operates dealerships for Rover, Jaguar and Rolls-Royce.

Lex is paying Sears Holdings £33.4 million for the businesses, which comprise the Sears Motor Group, and is taking on £50 million of external loans. Sears collects 8 million Lex shares, placed with institutions at 400p each, and £1.4 million in cash.

Clearing banks in the Brazil debt shadow

Brazil meets its western creditors today for the start of serious negotiations on rescheduling its \$109 billion debt. So far the meetings between creditors and debtors have largely been probing exercises to test the ground, but they have already revealed several crucial factors.

One is the increasing irritation of the banks over Brazil's inability to come up with a plausible economic policy. That could lead to a withdrawal of short-term credit lines by many banks when the current agreement runs out in a week. That in turn could force the Brazilians to freeze the lines, as they did more than a month ago, which would only sour relations further.

There is also a growing fear that Brazil may hit a severe liquidity crisis in the second half of the year. Much depends on developments in important export markets, such as coffee, and on the world economy itself, but Brazil's reserves are already being run down to fund imports.

All of this bears heavily on how much interest, if any, banks can expect to receive this year on their Brazilian loans. This is probably the single biggest factor overhauling the clearing bank sector of the stock market at present and analysts have been waving their slide rules over the problem.

Recent estimates by Smith New Court suggest that if Brazil continues to pay no interest on its debt for the rest of the year the reduction in bank pretax profits - whichever way they choose to account for it - looks like this: Barclays, £16.8 million; Lloyds £33.3 million;

Midland £60 million; National Westminster £16.7 million.

Just as interesting, Smith New Court calculates that these sums represent about 1.5 per cent of estimated 1987 pretax profits for Barclays and NatWest, 6.6 per cent for Lloyds and 11.5 per cent for Midland.

It seems likely that the negotiations with Brazil will be protracted, yet few people doubt Brazil's genuine desire to reach an early agreement despite its belligerent tone. Earlier fears that Brazil's interest moratorium would spread to other Third World countries now look unfounded.

It is conceivable that an agreement later this year would leave the banks' full year profits relatively unaffected, however badly they seem to be hit at the halfway stage. At any rate, whenever an agreement is reached, the setback to bank profits will be reversed. In the meantime the clearers are better padded than a couple of years ago to absorb such shocks.

The chairman of JP Morgan, Mr Lewis Preston, in commenting this week on the lost revenue to his bank from Brazilian loans said that debt problems had to be taken one by one. Universal panaceas - usually proposed by zealous legislators - only created false hopes. Mr Nigel Lawson's proposal for a lower interest charge on sub-Saharan African countries looks something like a panacea for a region, but it could perhaps be made to work since it refers only to official loans from western countries. With its hundreds of commercial bank creditors, Brazil cannot hope to find a formula as neat and clean as that.

Beware the silver horse

Speculators in precious metals have switched their affections to silver. In recent weeks, it has proved the most active of precious metals, and has risen to price levels last seen in May, 1985. Traditionally it has led the precious metals parade when the sector moves, and because the metal was largely ignored when platinum was the rage and when gold came back into fashion, the argument goes that it is time for silver to catch up.

Silver is as good as any other precious metal as an inflation hedge, and the price may well have further to run. In charting terms, the metal could be good for \$7.50 an ounce compared with yesterday's \$6.66 level, especially as fund managers are disappointed that gold, despite two attempts, has failed to break above the \$425 an ounce mark.

But before riding the silver horse, the fundamentals need careful thought. There are still massive above-ground stocks of silver; world supply-demand is virtually in balance; and any appreciable run in the price would certainly

encourage stale bulls who have waited since 1983 to offload into the rally.

Some investors insist on relying on market ratios just as some people insist there is a relationship between stocks and the birth rate. Indian investors have historically taken the gold/silver ratio at 35:1, but at its maximum spread last September the gold/silver ratio reached 76:1, and on yesterday's price it was still a wide 63.4:1. If 35:1 is to be believed, then on yesterday's gold price of \$424 an ounce then silver should have been \$12.11 an ounce. Alternatively, gold should have been at \$233.10 an ounce.

Demand for silver coins last year fuelled coinage use of the metal from 12.5 million ounces to 22 million ounces worldwide, though investor preference is still for gold. Since the South African kruggerand became politically unacceptable, other countries have rushed in to fill the gap.

Silver will continue to advance while it stays in investment fashion, and if gold does break into higher ground. But there can be no guarantee that the run will last.

Addison Consultancy surges ahead 43%

By Our City Staff

Addison Consultancy Group yesterday underlined its reputation as one of Britain's fastest growing advertising agencies and public relations consultants when it reported a 43 per cent jump in profits to £6.3 million for last year. Turnover grew by £27.8 million to £85.4 million.

Addison, formerly known as Addison, Page, Chervin & Street, has just ended a hectic year of acquisitions. The purchase last June of the Taylor Nelson Group, a privately-owned market research agency, was followed in October

by the takeover of AIDCOM International, a design consultancy group.

Mr Julian Broad, the chairman, who has been striving to build Addison into a sizeable communications and management consultancy group, is confident about prospects for this year.

He said: "Historically our profits have been stronger in the second half of the year."

Earnings per share rose to 8.98p from 6.42p in 1985 and a final dividend of 1.7p makes 2.5p for the year.

Profits slide to £3.5m at French Connection

By Joe Joseph

French Connection, the USM-quoted fashion group, ended another disappointing chapter in its rocky career as a public company yesterday when it reported a further slide in pretax profits for the year ended January 31 to £3.5 million from £4.9 million in the previous 12 months.

Turnover crept up to £48.7 million from £41.4 million but earnings per share slipped to 12.3p from 15.6p a year earlier.

Business from the company's US associate, Best of All Clothing, which took a

sharp knock in 1985, was slow to recover last year.

At the same time, the wet, windy weather that swept Britain last spring deterred shoppers from stocking up for their spring and summer wardrobes.

But the chairman, Mr Stephen Marks, is encouraged by the company's performance over the last few months and believes that "the overall feel for the first half this year is better than for the first half of the previous year. This is particularly encouraging when viewed together with a strong winter 1987 order book."

Forecourt boost lifts Esso to £527m

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Esso yesterday announced profits last year of £527 million, boosting the reduced profits it made in the North Sea due to the lower world oil price with increased earnings on the forecourts.

The company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Exxon in the US, does not provide a breakdown of where it makes its profits - its chairman Mr Archie Foster yesterday said that to do so would break the habit of a lifetime - but its programme of installing new equipment at its refineries and upgrading its retail outlets

with the most modern equipment has made its retail outlets increasingly profitable.

It still has the largest share of the British petrol market. Mr Foster said yesterday that the motorist is now enjoying one of the longest periods of price stability in recent history, but refused to be drawn on prospects of a price rise or cut in the coming weeks, when better weather and the Easter holiday period traditionally leads to an outbreak of new competition on the forecourts.

He did, however, confirm that Esso will continue to invest more than £1 million a

day in Britain and is hopeful of bringing into operation three North Sea oil and gas projects which had been adversely affected by the fall in the world oil price. He also welcomed the recent Government tax concessions designed to stimulate activity in the North Sea.

Esso itself paid the Government £739 million in tax and on oil royalties last year, although the lower value of North Sea crude reduced this figure from the 1984 total of £1.7 billion.

Mr Foster said: "In the light of future crude price uncertainties it is primarily up to

the oil industry itself, through cost reduction and innovative design, to recreate the impetus in the North Sea."

"However, in these uncertain times, we believe that the key role that the Government can play to assist the oil industry in the pursuit of these aims, is with well-targeted fiscal enhancements."

Esso is concerned that the industry demands for tax concessions to help preliminary engineering research and the development of enhanced recovery systems to extend the life of existing oilfields have been ignored.

One down and two more to go

The equity market-making arm of the stockbroker Hoare Govett will be trading from its pitches on the floor of the Stock Exchange for the last time today. Its withdrawal from both its pitch and box over the weekend will leave just two equity market-makers - Barclays de Zoete Wedd and Morgan Grenfell - holding the fort. Its only other occupants are three fixed interest market-makers, one gilt market-maker and a handful of traded option firms. The Stock Exchange is now indicating that all market-makers will have to be off the floor by the end of the year. The 30 or so Hoare Govett employees are being rehoused in the new Broadgate development, adjacent to Liverpool Street Station, which will mean they are re-united with their colleagues who have been moving into the new building in stages since January. Most of the remaining staff at the firm's old Holborn headquarters will also be moving this weekend and although I am told there has been a "three line whip," most will be working either tomorrow or Sunday to help transfer their belongings.

Rich pickings

When author Jeffrey Robinson asked 25 London and Wall Street bankers and stockbrokers the best way to get rich he received an amusing array of replies. Nine suggested "Rob a bank", six "Marry money", four "Choose your parents well", and four "Win the pools, Las Vegas or a lottery". Robinson, who publishes his book *Minus Mil-*

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

lionates. This week, observes that only two answers with anything resembling "Work very hard in a deliberate quest for material success, know everything about what you're doing and at the same time be very lucky while you are doing it."

● One of the lesser known casualties of last year's oil price slump was the Yorkshire textile manufacturer, S Jerome. Its sales of pinstripe cloth to the Middle East took a dive as Arabs cut back on their dishdashas, the traditional robes they wear. Five metres of worsted go into each pukka dishdasha, retailing at £300 plus, and no self-respecting sheikh has less than 40 in his wardrobe - many of them made from Jerome cloth.

British shame

The glamorous world of power boat racing is a far cry from the world of portable loos. But this down to earth area has been earmarked as the next business venture of former world power boat champion Alan Baldwin, chairman of Securiguard, the cleaning to security group. Within the next two weeks, the USM-quoted company will be launching a subsidiary, Service Link Environmental Services, and its portable product - Service Loo. Research by the firm has shown

light of chairman Sir Alistair Frame. Sir Alistair and other directors have been spreading the RTZ message in Japan for some time now as part of a long term strategy to raise the group's profile in the Far East, which could see RTZ eventually listed on the Tokyo stock market. Japanese investors are already on the RTZ share register. Next - an annual report in Japanese?

Sinking feeling Pity the poor artist responsible for the boardroom-sized painting of Blue Arrow - the racing yacht that will represent Britain in the 1990 America's Cup. On board HMS President on the Thames yesterday, in front of leading America's Cup contenders Peter de Savary and a hoard of Fleet Street backs, Tony Berry, chairman of the employment agency group Blue Arrow, proudly unveiled the artist's impression of what the eventual yacht will look like, only to be informed by a sailing enthusiast among the journalists that it would - if the technical errors in the drawing were to be believed - sink within minutes. An unamused Mr Berry later refused to be photographed in front of it and when asked whether he or Mr de Savary would be selecting the crew, quipped: "I won't be - I thought that was a good painting." Spurs-fan Berry, who yesterday unveiled a £10 million sponsorship package for de Savary, admitted he had never even set foot on a yacht.



Calling Tokyo

A trade war looms but the Japanese still love Rio Tinto Zinc. For the first time, Tokyo analysts turned up en masse at the RTZ year-end results briefing yesterday, to the de-

; Carol Leonard

WHICH PENNY SHARES WILL TRIPLE IN 1987?

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nearly always good news for the investor who was brave enough to buy when the company was down.

THE TOP PENNY SHARES OF 1986

Share	from	to	gain
Helicar Bar	48p	47p	+681%
Owen &	29p	265p	+813%
Titagroup	24p	130p	+441%
Dweek Group	25p	120p	+380%
Burndale Inv	20p	81p	+305%
Andronite	4p	15p	+250%
Paul Michael	13p	58p	+346%
Hobson	10p	43p	+320%
Campari Int	26p	107p	+311%

Prices as at November 1986 - includes adjustments for rights, scripps etc., but dividends not included.

Remember, these companies are still trading and they often have quite sizeable assets. Apart from the very few that do "go to the wall" - and they really are surprisingly few - the only way a share price that has fallen to mere pennies to go is up.

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By Michael Tate

Atlantic's earnings for 1986 are up from 26.58p to 35.49p. The dividend has been doubled to 6.51p with a 3.5p final.

First, assuming success, no matter what further cascade of bones there may be from the

possibility, in the light of the original costs indemnity, that AUA (3) Ltd might ultimately



Lloyd's difficulty in this connection is a deceptively

Mark Farrel
The author was chairman of the Senate Committee on Governmental Organization and Administration.

By Joe Joseph

Sir Keith Stuart, the chairman of ABP, remarked that the company's market capitalization had swollen to more than £400 million from £40 million when it shed its previous mantle of British Transport Docks Board.

Property income last year grew to £6.4 million from £5.5 million in 1985 and is likely to furnish an increasing slice of ABP's income. But the company's traditional ports business continues to provide the lion's share. It brought in operating profits, after severance costs, of £20.3 million last year, more than half as much again as in 1985.

trading yesterday. Traders said that scepticism about the ability of the Group of Seven leading industrial countries to stave off a further decline in the dollar made investors nervous.

CANADIAN PRICE

The future prospects for the Group are very encouraging.

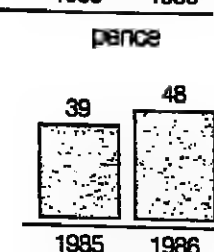
Metric	85	86	% Change
Turnover	\$63m	\$97m	+75%
Pretax Profit	\$4.8m	\$7.2m	+45%
Dividends	23¢	46¢	+100%
Earnings per share	\$4.50	\$5.95	+33.5%



Atlantic Computers plc, Winchmore House, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1BR. Tel: 01-583 9481

ABN	10.00%
Adam & Company	10.00%
BCCI	10.00%
Citibank Savings†	12.45%
Consolidated Crds	10.00%
Co-operative Bank	10.00%
C. Moore & Co	10.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	10.00%
Lloyds Bank	10.00%
Nat Westminster	10.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	10.00%
TSB	10.00%
Citibank NA	10.00%

EARNINGS PER SHARE 48p
Up 23%



For more information or a copy of the Annual Report,
please write to the Secretary
Hickson International PLC, Castleford, West Yorkshire WF10 2JT

TOBACCOS									
528	424	B&W (a)	518	520	0-5	20.4	3.9	9.7	
528	424	Camel	520	125					
297	135	Redskins "B"	291	242	+4.5	10.0	4.1	8.5	

© Div dividend + Ex all b Div dividend + Interm
 dividend received + Price at suspension of Dividend and
 yield exclude a special dividend c Pre-merger figure is a
 Forecast earnings + Ex other: Ex rights

[illegible]

APPOINTMENTS

McCarthy Stone: Sir Marcus Fox joins a non-executive director.

Greig Fessenden: Mr. C. J. Round joins the board as an executive director.

Helix Technology Group: Mr. Peter W. and Mr. Max Goodison made associate directors.

Chlorid Group: Mr. Michael Farebrother has been appointed managing director, Industrial Services. Mr. Roger Holmes joins group executive director, electrical and electronic. Mr. Angus Fraser becomes group executive director, corporate operations. Mr. R. Horrocks becomes non-executive chairman, Mr. Roads Thomas managing director, Mr. Charles Griffiths marketing director, all of Exid Europe. Mr. Ed van Geel becomes managing director, Exid International.

M. Marshall & Company: At Marshall Wellworth (Foreign Exchange), Mr. Christopher Kelson has been appointed chief executive. Mr. Michael Roberts joins the board as director and Mr. Martin Ellison becomes finance director. At Marshall Wellworth (Deposits), Mr. Christopher Flinders becomes chief executive. Mr. Adrian Walker and Mr. Geoffrey Westbrook become managing directors and Mr. Martin Ellison joins the board as finance director. At MW Marshall (Sterling), Mr. John Tee becomes chairman, Mr. Roger Webb chief executive and Mr. David Hester joins the board as director. At MW Marshall (Capital Markets), established from May 1, Mr. David Froggatt, Mr. Paul Alexander and Mr. Jon Pyzer join the board as directors. Mr. Martin Ellison will join the board as finance director. York Trust Group: Mr. Mark Vaughan-Lee becomes a non-executive director.

Official Airline Guides: Mr. Tony Clarke has been promoted to general manager and area director for Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Dowry Information Systems: Mr. Andy Seats becomes executive director for sales.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Three Month Sterling	Open	High	Low	Close	Settled
Jun 87	90.70	90.70	90.63	90.68	90.68
Sep 87	90.95	90.97	90.91	90.95	90.95
Dec 87	91.00	91.00	90.92	90.95	90.95
Mar 88	90.94	90.94	90.84	90.86	90.86
Jun 88	90.94	90.94	90.86	90.86	90.86
Sep 88	90.94	90.94	90.86	90.86	90.86
Dec 88	90.94	90.94	90.86	90.86	90.86
Mar 89	90.94	90.94	90.86	90.86	90.86
Previous day's total open interest 250.00					
Three Month Eurodollar					
Jun 87	93.29	93.31	93.24	93.29	93.29
Sep 87	93.28	93.28	93.13	93.15	93.15
Dec 87	93.13	93.14	93.06	93.08	93.08
Mar 88	92.95	92.95	92.84	92.92	92.92
Jun 88	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 88	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 88	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 89	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 89	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 89	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 89	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 90	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 90	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 90	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 90	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 91	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 91	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 91	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 91	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 92	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 92	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 92	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 92	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 93	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 93	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 93	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 93	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 94	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 94	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 94	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 94	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 95	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 95	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 95	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 95	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 96	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 96	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 96	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 96	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 97	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 97	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 97	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 97	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 98	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 98	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 98	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 98	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 99	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 99	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 99	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 99	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2000	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2000	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2000	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2000	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2001	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2001	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2001	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2001	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2002	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2002	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2002	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2002	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2003	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2003	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2003	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2003	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2004	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2004	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2004	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2004	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2005	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2005	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2005	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2005	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2006	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2006	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2006	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2006	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2007	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2007	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2007	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2007	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2008	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2008	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2008	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2008	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2009	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2009	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2009	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2009	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2010	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2010	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2010	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2010	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2011	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2011	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2011	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2011	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2012	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2012	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2012	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2012	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2013	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2013	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2013	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2013	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2014	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2014	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2014	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2014	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2015	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2015	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2015	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2015	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2016	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2016	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2016	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2016	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2017	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2017	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2017	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2017	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2018	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2018	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2018	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2018	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2019	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2019	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2019	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2019	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2020	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2020	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2020	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2020	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2021	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2021	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2021	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2021	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2022	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2022	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2022	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2022	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2023	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2023	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2023	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2023	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2024	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2024	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2024	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2024	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2025	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2025	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2025	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2025	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2026	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2026	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2026	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2026	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2027	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2027	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2027	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2027	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2028	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2028	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2028	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2028	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2029	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2029	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2029	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2029	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2030	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2030	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2030	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2030	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2031	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2031	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2031	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2031	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Mar 2032	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Jun 2032	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Sep 2032	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.75	92.75
Dec 2032	92.80	92.80	92.75	92	

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83.5, 84.0, 84.5, 85.0, 85.5, 86.0, 86.5, 87.0, 87.5, 88.0, 88.5, 89.0, 89.5, 90.0, 90.5, 91.0, 91.5, 92.0, 92.5, 93.0, 93.5, 94.0, 94.5, 95.0, 95.5, 96.0, 96.5, 97.0, 97.5, 98.0, 98.5, 99.0, 99.5, 100.0, 100.5, 101.0, 101.5, 102.0, 102.5, 103.0, 103.5, 104.0, 104.5, 105.0, 105.5, 106.0, 106.5, 107.0, 107.5, 108.0, 108.5, 109.0, 109.5, 110.0, 110.5, 111.0, 111.5, 112.0, 112.5, 113.0, 113.5, 114.0, 114.5, 115.0, 115.5, 116.0, 116.5, 117.0, 117.5, 118.0, 118.5, 119.0, 119.5, 120.0, 120.5, 121.0, 121.5, 122.0, 122.5, 123.0, 123.5, 124.0, 124.5, 125.0, 125.5, 126.0, 126.5, 127.0, 127.5, 128.0, 128.5, 129.0, 129.5, 130.0, 130.5, 131.0, 131.5, 132.0, 132.5, 133.0, 133.5, 134.0, 134.5, 135.0, 135.5, 136.0, 136.5, 137.0, 137.5, 138.0, 138.5, 139.0, 139.5, 140.0, 140.5, 141.0, 141.5, 142.0, 142.5, 143.0, 143.5, 144.0, 144.5, 145.0, 145.5, 146.0, 146.5, 147.0, 147.5, 148.0, 148.5, 149.0, 149.5, 150.0, 150.5, 151.0, 151.5, 152.0, 152.5, 153.0, 153.5, 154.0, 154.5, 155.0, 155.5, 156.0, 156.5, 157.0, 157.5, 158.0, 158.5, 159.0, 159.5, 160.0, 160.5, 161.0, 161.5, 162.0, 162.5, 163.0, 163.5, 164.0, 164.5, 165.0, 165.5, 166.0, 166.5, 167.0, 167.5, 168.0, 168.5, 169.0, 169.5, 170.0, 170.5, 171.0, 171.5, 172.0, 172.5, 173.0, 173.5, 174.0, 174.5, 175.0, 175.5, 176.0, 176.5, 177.0, 177.5, 178.0, 178.5, 179.0, 179.5, 180.0, 180.5, 181.0, 181.5, 182.0, 182.5, 183.0, 183.5, 184.0, 184.5, 185.0, 185.5, 186.0, 186.5, 187.0, 187.5, 188.0, 188.5, 189.0, 189.5, 190.0, 190.5, 191.0, 191.5, 192.0, 192.5, 193.0, 193.5, 194.0, 194.5, 195.0, 195.5, 196.0, 196.5, 197.0, 197.5, 198.0, 198.5, 199.0, 199.5, 200.0, 200.5, 201.0, 201.5, 202.0, 202.5, 203.0, 203.5, 204.0, 204.5, 205.0, 205.5, 206.0, 206.5, 207.0, 207.5, 208.0, 208.5, 209.0, 209.5, 210.0, 210.5, 211.0, 211.5, 212.0, 212.5, 213.0, 213.5, 214.0, 214.5, 215.0, 215.5, 216.0, 216.5, 217.0, 217.5, 218.0, 218.5, 219.0, 219.5, 220.0, 220.5, 221.0, 221.5, 222.0, 222.5, 223.0, 223.5, 224.0, 224.5, 225.0, 225.5, 226.0, 226.5, 227.0, 227.5, 228.0, 228.5, 229.0, 229.5, 230.0, 230.5, 231.0, 231.5, 232.0, 232.5, 233.0, 233.5, 234.0, 234.5, 235.0, 235.5, 236.0, 236.5, 237.0, 237.5, 238.0, 238.5, 239.0, 239.5, 240.0, 240.5, 241.0, 241.5, 242.0, 242.5, 243.0, 243.5, 244.0, 244.5, 245.0, 245.5, 246.0, 246.5, 247.0, 247.5, 248.0, 248.5, 249.0, 249.5, 250.0, 250.5, 251.0, 251.5, 252.0, 252.5, 253.0, 253.5, 254.0, 254.5, 255.0, 255.5, 256.0, 256.5, 257.0, 257.5, 258.0, 258.5, 259.0, 259.5, 260.0, 260.5, 261.0, 261.5, 262.0, 262.5, 263.0, 263.5, 264.0, 264.5, 265.0, 265.5, 266.0, 266.5, 267.0, 267.5, 268.0, 268.5, 269.0, 269.5, 270.0, 270.5, 271.0, 271.5, 272.0, 272.5, 273.0, 273.5, 274.0, 274.5, 275.0, 275.5, 276.0, 276.5, 277.0, 277.5, 278.0, 278.5, 279.0, 279.5, 280.0, 280.5, 281.0, 281.5, 282.0, 282.5, 283.0, 283.5, 284.0, 284.5, 285.0, 285.5, 286.0, 286.5, 287.0, 287.5, 288.0, 288.5, 289.0, 289.5, 290.0, 290.5, 291.0, 291.5, 292.0, 292.5, 293.0, 293.5, 294.0, 294.5, 295.0, 295.5, 296.0, 296.5, 297.0, 297.5, 298.0, 298.5, 299.0, 299.5, 300.0, 300.5, 301.0, 301.5, 302.0, 302.5, 303.0, 303.5, 304.0, 304.5, 305.0, 305.5, 306.0, 306.5, 307.0, 307.5, 308.0, 308.5, 309.0, 309.5, 310.0, 310.5, 311.0, 311.5, 312.0, 312.5, 313.0, 313.5, 314.0, 314.5, 315.0, 315.5, 316.0, 316.5, 317.0, 317.5, 318.0, 318.5, 319.0, 319.5, 320.0, 320.5, 321.0, 321.5, 322.0, 322.5, 323.0, 323.5, 324.0, 324.5, 325.0, 325.5, 326.0, 326.5, 327.0, 327.5, 328.0, 328.5, 329.0, 329.5, 330.0, 330.5, 331.0, 331.5, 332.0, 332.5, 333.0, 333.5, 334.0, 334.5, 335.0, 335.5, 336.0, 336.5, 337.0, 337.5, 338.0, 338.5, 339.0, 339.5, 340.0, 340.5, 341.0, 341.5, 342.0, 342.5, 343.0, 343.5, 344.0, 344.5, 345.0, 345.5, 346.0, 346.5, 347.0, 347.5, 348.0, 348.5, 349.0, 349.5, 350.0, 350.5, 351.0, 351.5, 352.0, 352.5, 353.0, 353.5, 354.0, 354.5, 355.0, 355.5, 356.0, 356.5, 357.0, 357.5, 358.0, 358.5, 359.0, 359.5, 360.0, 360.5, 361.0, 361.5, 362.0, 362.5, 363.0, 363.5, 364.0, 364.5, 365.0, 365.5, 366.0, 366.5, 367.0, 367.5, 368.0, 368.5, 369.0, 369.5, 370.0, 370.5, 371.0, 371.5, 372.0, 372.5, 373.0, 373.5, 374.0, 374.5, 375.0, 375.5, 376.0, 376.5, 377.0, 377.5, 378.0, 378.5, 379.0, 379.5, 380.0, 380.5, 381.0, 381.5, 382.0, 382.5, 383.0, 383.5, 384.0, 384.5, 385.0, 385.5, 386.0, 386.5, 387.0, 387.5, 388.0, 388.5, 389.0, 389.5, 390.0, 390.5, 391.0, 391.5, 392.0, 392.5, 393.0, 393.5, 394.0, 394.5, 395.0, 395.5, 396.0, 396.5, 397.0, 397.5, 398.0, 398.5, 399.0, 399.5, 400.0, 400.5, 401.0, 401.5, 402.0, 402.5, 403.0, 403.5, 404.0, 404.5, 405.0, 405.5, 406.0, 406.5, 407.0, 407.5, 408.0, 408.5, 409.0, 409.5, 410.0, 410.5, 411.0, 411.5, 412.0, 412.5, 413.0, 413.5, 414.0, 414.5, 415.0, 415.5, 416.0, 416.5, 417.0, 417.5, 418.0, 418.5, 419.0, 419.5, 420.0, 420.5, 421.0, 421.5, 422.0, 422.5, 423.0, 423.5, 424.0, 424.5, 425.0, 425.5, 426.0, 426.5, 427.0, 427.5, 428.0, 428.5, 429.0, 429.5, 430.0, 430.5, 431.0, 431.5, 432.0, 432.5, 433.0, 433.5, 434.0, 434.5, 435.0, 435.5, 436.0, 436.5, 437.0, 437.5, 438.0, 438.5, 439.0, 439.5, 440.0, 440.5, 441.0, 441.5, 442.0, 442.5, 443.0, 443.5, 444.0, 444.5, 445.0, 445.5, 446.0, 446.5, 447.0, 447.5, 448.0, 448.5, 449.0, 449.5, 450.0, 450.5, 451.0, 451.5, 452.0, 452.5, 453.0, 453.5, 454.0, 454.5, 455.0, 455.5, 456.0, 456.5, 457.0, 457.5, 458.0, 458.5, 459.0, 459.5, 460.0, 460.5, 461.0, 461.5, 462.0, 462.5, 463.0, 463.5, 464.0, 464.5, 465.0, 465.5, 466.0, 466.5, 467.0, 467.5, 468.0, 468.5, 469.0, 469.5, 470.0, 470.5, 471.0, 471.5, 472.0, 472.5, 473.0, 473.5, 474.0, 474.5, 475.0, 475.5, 476.0, 476.5, 477.0, 477.5, 478.0, 478.5, 479.0, 479.5, 480.0, 480.5, 481.0, 481.5, 482.0, 482.5, 483.0, 483.5, 484.0, 484.5, 485.0, 485.5, 486.0, 486.5, 487.0, 487.5, 488.0, 488.5, 489.0, 489.5, 490.0, 490.5, 491.0, 491.5, 492.0, 492.5, 493.0, 493.5, 494.0, 494.5, 495.0, 495.5, 496.0, 496.5, 497.0, 497.5, 498.0, 498.5, 499.0, 499.5, 500.0, 500.5, 501.0, 501.5, 502.0, 502.5, 503.0, 503.5, 504.0, 504.5, 505.0, 505.5, 506.0, 506.5, 507.0, 507.5, 508.0, 508.5, 509.0, 509.5, 510.0, 510.5, 511.0, 511.5, 512.0, 512.5, 513.0, 513.5, 514.0, 514.5, 515.0, 515.5, 516.0, 516.5, 517.0, 517.5, 518.0, 518.5, 519.0, 519.5, 520.0, 520.5, 521.0, 521.5, 522.0, 522.5, 523.0, 523.5, 524.0, 524.5, 525.0, 525.5, 526.0, 526.5, 527.0, 527.5, 528.0, 528.5, 529.0, 529.5, 530.0, 530.5, 531.0, 531.5, 532.0, 532.5, 533.0, 533.5, 534.0, 534.5, 535.0, 535.5, 536.0, 536.5, 537.0, 537.5, 538.0, 538.5, 539.0, 539.5, 540.0, 540.5, 541.0, 541.5, 542.0, 542.5, 543.0, 543.5, 544.0, 544.5, 545.0, 545.5, 546.0, 546.5, 547.0, 547.5, 548.0, 548.5, 549.0, 549.5, 550.0, 550.5, 551.0, 551.5, 552.0, 552.5, 553.0, 553.5, 554.0, 554.5, 555.0, 555.5, 556.0, 556.5, 557.0, 557.5, 558.0, 558.5, 559.0, 559.5, 560.0, 560.5, 561.0, 561.5, 562.0, 562.5, 563.0, 563.5, 564.0, 564.5, 565.0, 565.5, 566.0, 566.5, 567.0, 567.5, 568.0, 568.5, 569.0, 569.5, 570.0, 570.5, 571.0, 571.5, 572.0, 572.5, 573.0, 573.5, 574.0, 574.5, 575.0, 575.5, 576.0, 576.5, 577.0, 577.5, 578.0, 578.5, 579.0, 579.5, 580.0, 580.5, 581.0, 581.5, 582.0, 582.5, 583.0, 583.5, 584.0, 584.5, 585.0, 585.5, 586.0, 586.5, 587.0, 587.5, 588.0, 588.5, 589.0, 589.5, 590.0, 590.5, 591.0, 591.5, 592.0, 592.5, 593.0, 593.5, 594.0, 594.5, 595.0, 595.5, 596.0, 596.5, 597.0, 597.5, 598.0, 598.5, 599.0, 599.5, 600.0, 600.5, 601.0, 601.5, 602.0, 602.5, 603.0, 603.5, 604.0, 604.5, 605.0, 605.5, 606.0, 606.5, 607.0, 607.5, 608.0, 608.5, 609.0, 609.5, 610.0, 610.5, 611.0, 611.5, 612.0, 612.5, 613.0, 613.5, 614.0, 614.5, 615.0, 615.5, 616.0, 616.5, 617.0, 617.5, 618.0, 618.5, 619.0, 619.5, 620.0, 620.5, 621.0, 621.5, 622.0, 622.5, 623.0, 623.5, 624.0, 624.5, 625.0, 625.5, 626.0, 626.5, 627.0, 627.5, 628.0, 628.5, 629.0, 629.5, 630.0, 630.5, 631.0, 631.5, 632.0, 632.5, 633.0, 633.5, 634.0, 634.5, 635.0, 635.5, 636.0, 636.5, 637.0, 637.5, 638.0, 638.5, 639.0, 639.5, 640.0, 640.5, 641.0, 641.5, 642.0, 642.5, 643.0, 643.5, 644.0, 644.5, 645.0, 645.5, 646.0, 646.5, 647.0, 647.5, 648.0, 648.5, 649.0, 649.5, 650.0, 650.5, 651.0, 651.5, 652.0, 652.5, 653.0, 653.5, 654.0, 654.5, 655.0, 655.5, 656.0, 656.5, 657.0, 657.5, 658.0, 658.5, 659.0, 659.5, 660.0, 660.5, 661.0, 661.5, 662.0, 662.5, 663.0, 663.5, 664.0, 664.5, 665.0, 665.5, 666.0, 666.5, 667.0, 667.5, 668.0, 668.5, 669.0, 669.5, 670.0, 670.5, 671.0, 671.5, 672.0, 672.5, 673.0, 673.5, 674.0, 674.5, 675.0, 675.5, 676.0, 676.5, 677.0, 677.5, 678.0, 678.5, 679.0, 679.5, 680.0, 680.5, 681.0, 681.5, 682.0, 682.5, 683.0, 683.5, 684.0, 684.5, 685.0, 685.5, 686.0, 686.5, 687.0, 687.5, 688.0, 688.5, 689.0, 689.5, 690.0, 690.5, 691.0, 691.5, 692.0, 692.5, 693.0, 693.5, 694.0, 694.5, 695.0, 695.5, 696.0, 696.5, 697.0, 697.5, 698.0, 698.5, 699.0, 699.5, 700.0, 700.5, 701.0, 701.5, 702.0, 702.5, 703.0, 703.5, 704.0, 704.5, 705.0, 705.5, 706.0, 706.5, 707.0, 707.5, 708.0, 708.5, 709.0, 709.5, 710.0, 710.5, 711.0, 711.5, 712.0, 712.5, 713.0, 713.5, 714.0, 714.5, 715.0, 715.5, 716.0, 716.5, 717.0, 717.5, 718.0, 718.5, 719.0, 719.5, 720.0, 720.5, 721.0, 721.5, 722.0, 722.5, 723.0, 723.5, 724.0, 724.5, 725.0, 725.5, 726.0, 726.5, 727.0, 727.5, 728.0, 728.5, 729.0, 729.5, 730.0, 730.5, 731.0, 731.5, 732.0, 732.5, 733.0, 733.5, 734.0, 734.5, 735.0, 735.5, 736.0, 736.5, 737.0, 737.5, 738.0, 738.5, 739.0, 739.5, 740.0, 740.5, 741.0, 741.5, 742.0, 742.5, 743.0, 743.5, 744.0, 744.5, 745.0, 745.5, 746.0, 746.5, 747.0, 747.5, 748.0, 748.5, 749.0, 749.5, 750.0, 750.5, 751.0, 751.5, 752.0, 752.5, 753.0, 753.5, 754.0, 754.5, 755.0, 755.5, 756.0, 756.5, 757.0, 757.5, 758.0, 758.5, 759.0, 759.5, 760.0, 760.5, 761.0, 761.5, 762.0, 762.5, 763.0, 763.5, 764.0, 764.5, 765.0, 765.5, 766.0, 766.5, 767.0, 767.5, 768.0, 768.5, 769.0, 769.5, 770.0, 770.5, 771.0, 771.5, 772.0, 772.5, 773.0, 773.5, 774.0, 774.5, 775.0, 775.5, 776.0, 776.5, 777.0, 777.5, 778.0, 778.5, 779.0, 779.5, 780.0, 780.5, 781.0, 781.5, 782.0, 782.5, 783.0, 783.5, 784.0, 784.5, 785.0, 785.5, 786.0, 786.5, 787.0, 787.5, 788.0, 788.5, 789.0, 789.5, 790.0, 790.5, 791.0, 791.5, 792.0, 792.5, 793.0, 793.5, 794.0, 794.5, 795.0, 795.5, 796.0, 796.5, 797.0, 797.5, 798.0, 798.5, 799.0, 799.5, 800.0, 800.5, 801.0, 801.5, 802.0, 802.5, 803.0, 803.5, 804.0, 804.5, 805.0, 805.5, 806.0, 806.5, 807.0, 807.5, 808.0, 808.5, 809.0, 809.5, 810.0, 810.5, 811.0, 811.5, 812.0, 812.5, 813.0, 813.5, 814.0, 814.5, 815.0, 815.5, 816.0, 816.5, 817.0, 817.5, 818.0, 818.5, 819.0, 819.5, 820.0, 820.5, 821.0, 821.5, 822.0, 822.5, 823.0, 823.5, 824.0, 824.5, 825.0, 825.5, 826.0, 826.5, 827.0, 827.5, 828.0, 828.5, 829.0, 829.5, 830.0, 830.5, 831.0, 831.5, 832.0, 832.5, 833.0, 833.5, 834.0, 834.5, 835.0, 835.5, 836.0, 836.5, 837.0, 837.5, 838.0, 838.5, 839.0, 839.5, 840.0, 840.5, 841.0, 841.5, 842.0, 842.5, 843.0, 843.5, 844.0, 844.5, 845.0, 845.5, 846.0, 846.5, 847.0, 847.5, 848.0, 848.5, 849.0, 849.5, 850.0, 850.5, 851.0, 851.5, 852.0, 852.5, 8

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By John Hennessy

Glencoe, falling as snow above 1,500'.
wind moderate or fresh west; to south
west; freezing level, 2,000'. Outlook:
tomorrow sunny intervals and scattered
showers, snow at higher levels; freeze
level, 2,000'; wind fresh westerly.

By a Special Correspondent

Glencoe, falling as snow above 1,500'.
wind moderate or fresh west; to south
west; freezing level, 2,000'. Outlook:
tomorrow sunny intervals and scattered
showers, snow at higher levels; freeze
level, 2,000'; wind fresh westerly.

By Barry Pickthall

19th names first: Jan-Ove Walden (S),
 20th, 21-22, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34, 35-36, 37-38, 39-40, 41-42, 43-44, 45-46, 47-48, 49-50, 51-52, 53-54, 55-56, 57-58, 59-60, 61-62, 63-64, 65-66, 67-68, 69-70, 71-72, 73-74, 75-76, 77-78, 79-80, 81-82, 83-84, 85-86, 87-88, 89-90, 91-92, 93-94, 95-96, 97-98, 99-100, 101-102, 103-104, 105-106, 107-108, 109-110, 111-112, 113-114, 115-116, 117-118, 119-120, 121-122, 123-124, 125-126, 127-128, 129-130, 131-132, 133-134, 135-136, 137-138, 139-140, 141-142, 143-144, 145-146, 147-148, 149-150, 151-152, 153-154, 155-156, 157-158, 159-160, 161-162, 163-164, 165-166, 167-168, 169-170, 171-172, 173-174, 175-176, 177-178, 179-180, 181-182, 183-184, 185-186, 187-188, 189-190, 191-192, 193-194, 195-196, 197-198, 199-200, 201-202, 203-204, 205-206, 207-208, 209-210, 211-212, 213-214, 215-216, 217-218, 219-220, 221-222, 223-224, 225-226, 227-228, 229-230, 231-232, 233-234, 235-236, 237-238, 239-240, 241-242, 243-244, 245-246, 247-248, 249-250, 251-252, 253-254, 255-256, 257-258, 259-260, 261-262, 263-264, 265-266, 267-268, 269-270, 271-272, 273-274, 275-276, 277-278, 279-280, 281-282, 283-284, 285-286, 287-288, 289-290, 291-292, 293-294, 295-296, 297-298, 299-300, 301-302, 303-304, 305-306, 307-308, 309-310, 311-312, 313-314, 315-316, 317-318, 319-320, 321-322, 323-324, 325-326, 327-328, 329-330, 331-332, 333-334, 335-336, 337-338, 339-340, 341-342, 343-344, 345-346, 347-348, 349-350, 351-352, 353-354, 355-356, 357-358, 359-360, 361-362, 363-364, 365-366, 367-368, 369-370, 371-372, 373-374, 375-376, 377-378, 379-380, 381-382, 383-384, 385-386, 387-388, 389-390, 391-392, 393-394, 395-396, 397-398, 399-400, 401-402, 403-404, 405-406, 407-408, 409-410, 411-412, 413-414, 415-416, 417-418, 419-420, 421-422, 423-424, 425-426, 427-428, 429-430, 431-432, 433-434, 435-436, 437-438, 439-440, 441-442, 443-444, 445-446, 447-448, 449-450, 451-452, 453-454, 455-456, 457-458, 459-460, 461-462, 463-464, 465-466, 467-468, 469-470, 471-472, 473-474, 475-476, 477-478, 479-480, 481-482, 483-484, 485-486, 487-488, 489-490, 491-492, 493-494, 495-496, 497-498, 499-500, 501-502, 503-504, 505-506, 507-508, 509-510, 511-512, 513-514, 515-516, 517-518, 519-520, 521-522, 523-524, 525-526, 527-528, 529-530, 531-532, 533-534, 535-536, 537-538, 539-540, 541-542, 543-544, 545-546, 547-548, 549-550, 551-552, 553-554, 555-556, 557-558, 559-560, 561-562, 563-564, 565-566, 567-568, 569-570, 571-572, 573-574, 575-576, 577-578, 579-580, 581-582, 583-584, 585-586, 587-588, 589-590, 591-592, 593-594, 595-596, 597-598, 599-600, 601-602, 603-604, 605-606, 607-608, 609-610, 611-612, 613-614, 615-616, 617-618, 619-620, 621-622, 623-624, 625-626, 627-628, 629-630, 631-632, 633-634, 635-636, 637-638, 639-640, 641-642, 643-644, 645-646, 647-648, 649-650, 651-652, 653-654, 655-656, 657-658, 659-660, 661-662, 663-664, 665-666, 667-668, 669-670, 671-672, 673-674, 675-676, 677-678, 679-680, 681-682, 683-684, 685-686, 687-688, 689-690, 691-692, 693-694, 695-696, 697-698, 699-700, 701-702, 703-704, 705-706, 707-708, 709-710, 711-712, 713-714, 715-716, 717-718, 719-720, 721-722, 723-724, 725-726, 727-728, 729-730, 731-732, 733-734, 735-736, 737-738, 739-740, 741-742, 743-744, 745-746, 747-748, 749-750, 751-752, 753-754, 755-756, 757-758, 759-760, 761-762, 763-764, 765-766, 767-768, 769-770, 771-772, 773-774, 775-776, 777-778, 779-780, 781-782, 783-784, 785-786, 787-788, 789-790, 791-792, 793-794, 795-796, 797-798, 799-800, 801-802, 803-804, 805-806, 807-808, 809-810, 811-812, 813-814, 815-816, 817-818, 819-820, 821-822, 823-824, 825-826, 827-828, 829-830, 831-832, 833-834, 835-836, 837-838, 839-840, 841-842, 843-844, 845-846, 847-848, 849-850, 851-852, 853-854, 855-856, 857-858, 859-860, 861-862, 863-864, 865-866, 867-868, 869-870, 871-872, 873-874, 875-876, 877-878, 879-880, 881-882, 883-884, 885-886, 887-888, 889-890, 891-892, 893-894, 895-896, 897-898, 899-900, 901-902, 903-904, 905-906, 907-908, 909-910, 911-912, 913-914, 915-916, 917-918, 919-920, 921-922, 923-924, 925-926, 927-928, 929-930, 931-932, 933-934, 935-936, 937-938, 939-940, 941-9

Glencoe, falling as snow above 1,500'.
wind moderate or fresh west; to south
west; freezing level, 2,000'. Outlook:
tomorrow sunny intervals and scattered
showers, snow at higher levels; freeze
level, 2,000'; wind fresh westerly.

By Stuart Jones

from the terraces, and especially during the first half. "We were awful," he said, and few could have disputed his typically honest appraisal.

On the eve of another semi-final against Dundee in the Scottish Cup, he remains deeply concerned about his side's apparent loss of form. Only in the closing stages did they raise their challenge against Borussia.

In the second leg Borussia are certain to be without the influential Drehsen, who is automatically suspended for the second time after being booked on Wednesday.

19th names first: Jan-Ove Walden (S),
 20th, 21-22, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34, 35-36, 37-38, 39-40, 41-42, 43-44, 45-46, 47-48, 49-50, 51-52, 53-54, 55-56, 57-58, 59-60, 61-62, 63-64, 65-66, 67-68, 69-70, 71-72, 73-74, 75-76, 77-78, 79-80, 81-82, 83-84, 85-86, 87-88, 89-90, 91-92, 93-94, 95-96, 97-98, 99-100, 101-102, 103-104, 105-106, 107-108, 109-110, 111-112, 113-114, 115-116, 117-118, 119-120, 121-122, 123-124, 125-126, 127-128, 129-130, 131-132, 133-134, 135-136, 137-138, 139-140, 141-142, 143-144, 145-146, 147-148, 149-150, 151-152, 153-154, 155-156, 157-158, 159-160, 161-162, 163-164, 165-166, 167-168, 169-170, 171-172, 173-174, 175-176, 177-178, 179-180, 181-182, 183-184, 185-186, 187-188, 189-190, 191-192, 193-194, 195-196, 197-198, 199-200, 201-202, 203-204, 205-206, 207-208, 209-210, 211-212, 213-214, 215-216, 217-218, 219-220, 221-222, 223-224, 225-226, 227-228, 229-230, 231-232, 233-234, 235-236, 237-238, 239-240, 241-242, 243-244, 245-246, 247-248, 249-250, 251-252, 253-254, 255-256, 257-258, 259-260, 261-262, 263-264, 265-266, 267-268, 269-270, 271-272, 273-274, 275-276, 277-278, 279-280, 281-282, 283-284, 285-286, 287-288, 289-290, 291-292, 293-294, 295-296, 297-298, 299-300, 301-302, 303-304, 305-306, 307-308, 309-310, 311-312, 313-314, 315-316, 317-318, 319-320, 321-322, 323-324, 325-326, 327-328, 329-330, 331-332, 333-334, 335-336, 337-338, 339-340, 341-342, 343-344, 345-346, 347-348, 349-350, 351-352, 353-354, 355-356, 357-358, 359-360, 361-362, 363-364, 365-366, 367-368, 369-370, 371-372, 373-374, 375-376, 377-378, 379-380, 381-382, 383-384, 385-386, 387-388, 389-390, 391-392, 393-394, 395-396, 397-398, 399-400, 401-402, 403-404, 405-406, 407-408, 409-410, 411-412, 413-414, 415-416, 417-418, 419-420, 421-422, 423-424, 425-426, 427-428, 429-430, 431-432, 433-434, 435-436, 437-438, 439-440, 441-442, 443-444, 445-446, 447-448, 449-450, 451-452, 453-454, 455-456, 457-458, 459-460, 461-462, 463-464, 465-466, 467-468, 469-470, 471-472, 473-474, 475-476, 477-478, 479-480, 481-482, 483-484, 485-486, 487-488, 489-490, 491-492, 493-494, 495-496, 497-498, 499-500, 501-502, 503-504, 505-506, 507-508, 509-510, 511-512, 513-514, 515-516, 517-518, 519-520, 521-522, 523-524, 525-526, 527-528, 529-530, 531-532, 533-534, 535-536, 537-538, 539-540, 541-542, 543-544, 545-546, 547-548, 549-550, 551-552, 553-554, 555-556, 557-558, 559-560, 561-562, 563-564, 565-566, 567-568, 569-570, 571-572, 573-574, 575-576, 577-578, 579-580, 581-582, 583-584, 585-586, 587-588, 589-590, 591-592, 593-594, 595-596, 597-598, 599-600, 601-602, 603-604, 605-606, 607-608, 609-610, 611-612, 613-614, 615-616, 617-618, 619-620, 621-622, 623-624, 625-626, 627-628, 629-630, 631-632, 633-634, 635-636, 637-638, 639-640, 641-642, 643-644, 645-646, 647-648, 649-650, 651-652, 653-654, 655-656, 657-658, 659-660, 661-662, 663-664, 665-666, 667-668, 669-670, 671-672, 673-674, 675-676, 677-678, 679-680, 681-682, 683-684, 685-686, 687-688, 689-690, 691-692, 693-694, 695-696, 697-698, 699-700, 701-702, 703-704, 705-706, 707-708, 709-710, 711-712, 713-714, 715-716, 717-718, 719-720, 721-722, 723-724, 725-726, 727-728, 729-730, 731-732, 733-734, 735-736, 737-738, 739-740, 741-742, 743-744, 745-746, 747-748, 749-750, 751-752, 753-754, 755-756, 757-758, 759-760, 761-762, 763-764, 765-766, 767-768, 769-770, 771-772, 773-774, 775-776, 777-778, 779-780, 781-782, 783-784, 785-786, 787-788, 789-790, 791-792, 793-794, 795-796, 797-798, 799-800, 801-802, 803-804, 805-806, 807-808, 809-810, 811-812, 813-814, 815-816, 817-818, 819-820, 821-822, 823-824, 825-826, 827-828, 829-830, 831-832, 833-834, 835-836, 837-838, 839-840, 841-842, 843-844, 845-846, 847-848, 849-850, 851-852, 853-854, 855-856, 857-858, 859-860, 861-862, 863-864, 865-866, 867-868, 869-870, 871-872, 873-874, 875-876, 877-878, 879-880, 881-882, 883-884, 885-886, 887-888, 889-890, 891-892, 893-894, 895-896, 897-898, 899-900, 901-902, 903-904, 905-906, 907-908, 909-910, 911-912, 913-914, 915-916, 917-918, 919-920, 921-922, 923-924, 925-926, 927-928, 929-930, 931-932, 933-934, 935-936, 937-938, 939-940, 941-9

RACKETS

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Collection open to all championship-level Open-age players. J. Pinner (19-0), B. Tindell and D. Ruck-Kearns (15-0), 15-15-0; M. Smith (10-0).

QUEEN'S CLUB: Selection open do
championships: Quarter-finals: J Prew
Male by T Brudenell and D Rack-Kearne
15-0, 15-3, 15-0; N Smith (Queen's) a
Rush by C Hys Williams and B Owen 3-0

A staircase to pastiche

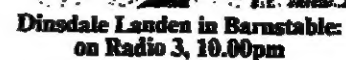


● The first chat show was probably *In Town Tonight*, which started in 1933, moving to television in 1955. It was the vision and the World Service that claimed (though it seems extraordinary) a global audience of 100 million. Now there are a dozen or more chat shows every week and the main reason is summed up in the title of tonight's *Arena*, *Talk Is Cheap* (BBC2, 9.30-10.30pm). The programme is itself a pastiche of the genre, with David Frost, Russell Harty and Kenneth Williams trotting down the obligatory salacious and take their seats with the host, the venerable Sir Kenneth Macdonald. *Talk Is Cheap* is a pretty deal more entertaining than its subject often is. Apart from the studio pundits, we eavesdrop on the *Wogan* planning meeting which is alive with bright ideas,

like trying to get Maggie and Dennis together for Valentine's Day. Then there is Malcolm Muggeridge, the doyen of telly chat, reluctantly admitting a TV set to his home so that he can watch himself on it. The best moments in chat shows are when the guests take over, as when old Ralph Richardson once did it to Harty. But as Loyd Grossman shrewdly remarks apropos the *Wogan* set, with its cosy colours and chain store ambience, the chat show is designed to be a thing of consensus rather than conflict. So sit back, suspend the intelligence and await the dentless words: "My next guest is..."

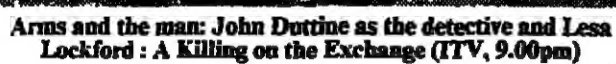
Peter Waymark

● **Peter Dinklage writes:** What with the spontaneous disintegration of their country home around their ears, their mole-riddled lawn, the massacre of thrushes, their sickly Statuette Sylvaticus, and their sun that suddenly takes it into its head to quit the heavens, the Carboys who inhabit the surreal world of James Saunders's *Barnstable* (Radio 3, 10.00pm) are tailor-made for the Theatre of the Absurd. And, sure enough, this is the slot into which Saunders's priceless piece has been fitted. The entire cast, from Dinsdale Landen's puffy paternalism to Peter Woodall's dapper, dismissive, and their lunatic philosophic, with that poker-faced matter of factness which connoisseurs of high-quality farce will recognize as the *sine qua non* of the genre

[illegible]

6.00 **CeeFax AM, 6.55 Weather.**
6.00 **Breakfast Time** National and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.
8.40 **Watelex** Consumer complaints investigate. 8.55 Regional news and weather.
9.00 **News and Weather 9.05** Day Day. With Robert Kilroy-Silk. 9.45 **Advice Line** with Paul Clark and Eileen Ewson.
10.00 **News and weather 10.05** **Day Day** 10.25 **Children's BBC.** With Andy Crane. 10.30 **Play School** 10.50 **Paddington.** (r)
10.55 **Five to Eleven.** Wendy Fisher. A thought for the day 11.00 **News and weather 11.05** **Your Life in Their Hands.** The story of the operation on Holly and Carly. Jill Fieles's Siamese twins born facing each other, joined from breast bone to navel. (r)
12.00 **News and weather 12.05** **The Tom Corbett Roadshow** from the Playhouse Theatre, Liverpool 12.55 **Regional news and weather.**
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Maryline Dwyer. **Weather 1.25** **Neighbours.** Paul and Terry try to come to terms with the loss of the house they had set their hearts on. 1.50 **Happ and Smiff** presented by Mike Arnett. (r)
2.05 **The Liver Birds.** Comedy series starring Nerys Hughes and Elizabeth Estensen. (r) 2.35 **Knots Landing.** Mack has his hands full when his father turns up with the intention of spending the rest of his days with him. 3.25 **Bob Clever.** Family quiz game.
3.50 **The Amazing Adventures of Morph,** with Tony Hart. (r) 4.00 **Comers.** young

people's queries answered. 4.15 **Ulysses 31.** Animated adventure series. (r) 4.40 **A Day in the Life** of a vessel. With the voices of Lyval Bennett, Peter Francis as weasels and Philip Madoc as the owl. (r) 5.05 **Seaview.** Episode four. (r) 5.35 **Smoker: Taylor Mack.** Dennis Taylor's masterpiece (first shown on BBC Northern Ireland)
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Sue Lawley and Philip Taylor. **Weather.**
6.35 **London Plus.**
7.00 **A Song for Europe 1987.** Terry Wogan introduces the ten songs likely to become the United Kingdom's representative at the Eurovision Song Contest in Brussels next month.
8.00 **Dynasty.** Emily Whitmont's dying wish is that Blake uses the letter she has left him to create chaos for his enemies. (CeeFax)
8.50 **Points of View** with Anne Robinson.
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Julia Somerville and Philip Taylor. Regional news and weather.
9.30 **Whicker's World: Living With Uncle Sam.** In the third of his ten films on Britains who are living and working in the United States among those Alan Whicker meets is a man who has created a multi-million dollar brewery in Manhattan; and the driver of a horse-drawn carriage in Central Park. (r) (CeeFax)
10.25 **The Twilight Zone Film: Tarkenton's Last Glimpse** (1977) starring Burt Lancaster and Richard Widmark. A nuclear thriller about an embittered, cashiered general who, with a team of ex-convicts, breaks into the launch control centre of a titan missile silo and threatens to fire the nuclear warheads. Directed by Richard Aldrich.
12.45 **Weather.**



6.55 Open University: Electronics and Atoms. Ends at 7.25
8.00 Cezanne.
2.02 News and weather.
2.02 100 Great Sporting Moments. Robin Cousins skating in the 1980 Winter Olympic Games at Lake Placid.
2.15 Road to Newbury. The 2.50, 3.00, 3.30 and the 4.00. Includes news and weather at 2.50 and 3.50.
4.15 Les Langranger. A profile of wildlife artist Basilite Heron.
4.40 Pamela Armstrong. There is a look behind the scenes at the making of *The Archers*; and an interview with Arthur Scargill.
5.10 Horizon: Trial Babies. A repeat of Monday's programme about the different methods of testing - whether or not two older mothers-to-be are carrying babies with Down's Syndrome.
6.00 Films: I See 'ee' (1938) starring George Formby and Kay Walsh. Comedy about a photographer's assistant who develops a miniature camera, capable of being secreted in a bow-tie. Complications arise, the man loses his job and ends up as a hockey player's referee. Directed by Anthony Kimmins.
7.20 Tex Avery. A cartoon entitled *The Cat That Hated Puppies*.
7.30 The Education Programme. Sarah Kennedy presents a discussion on 'A National Curriculum - Right or Wrong?' between Junior Education Minister, Angela Rumbold; Donald Naismith; Tim Brighouse; and David Hart.
8.00 The Big Class. The story of the 19th century's rich and wealthy owners who sailed in the Solent in the 1930s. (First shown on BBC South)
8.30 The Gomers' World. Geoff Hamilton and Roy Lancaster visit Lingham Gardens, Cumbria, owned by Viscount Rochdale, to see the designer, the garden and to talk to the head gardener, Mike Swift, about the propagation of trees, shrubs and flowers.
9.00 News: Something Else. Comedy impressions from Rory Bremner.
9.30 Arena: Talk is Cheap. Joe Wicksdonald has a profile of that big boss, the success of chat shows. Among those taking part are Simon Dee and Malcolm Muggeridge. (See Choices)
10.30 The Big Up to Aids. Alexandra Pigg plays Jan, a young woman about to be married, discussing with David Miller of the *Midweek Express* whether or not to take the Aids test.
10.45 Newsnight 11.30

6.15 TV-am introduced by Caroline Righmon and Mike Morris. Weather at 6.58 and 6.59; news at 6.59; financial news at 6.35; sport at 6.40; and exercises at 6.55.

7.00 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Richard Keys. News at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; cartoon at 7.30; sport at 7.40; pop music at 7.55; and Jimmy Greaves's television highlights at 8.35. After Nine includes Russell Grant's astrology and exercises with Lizzie Webb.

9.25 Thames news headlines followed by *Film: The Mounties* (1958) starring Spencer Tracy and Robert Wagner. Drama about a retired Alpine guide who decides to lead a rescue party to the wreckage of an airliner when he discovers his younger brother is planning to look the "plane" over in order to escape from village life. Directed by Edward Dmytryk. 11.20 Cartoon Time.

11.30 About Britain. Jim Flagg visits Dorset's Blackmoor Vale in September.

12.00 Oms and Chops. (12.10) Rainbow. Learning with puppets.

12.30 Message. Neil Cossons in praise of the Great Western Railway.

1.00 News at One with Leonard Patrick. 1.20 Thames news. 1.30 Film: *Holiday on the Buses* (1978) starring Reg Varney. Sir and Jack are fired from the depot and find work driving a holiday camp bus in Wales. Directed by Bryan Izard.

3.00 Take the High Road. Is there a need to replace the old ferry with a new boat? 3.25 Thames news headlines. 3.30 Sons and Daughters.

4.00 Rainbows. A repeat of the programme shown at 12.10.

4.15 *Starlink*. (7.4.25) *Emu's Wide World with Rod Hull*. 5.15 *Ask Me Questions*. Celebrity quiz game without questions.

5.45 News with Fiona Armstrong.

6.00 The 6 O'Clock Show.

7.00 Through the Keyhole. David Frost is the host to a celebrity panel trying to discover the identity of the owners of two houses in London homes discovered by Loyd Grossman. With Willie Rushton, Eve Pollard, and Chris Tarrant. (Oracle)

7.30 *Murder She Wrote*. Jessica spends her holiday in Hawaii trying to prove private eye Thomas Magnum innocent of two brutal murders.

8.30 *Running Wild*. The final episode of Max and his new flame plan a dinner for four with Babe and her man of the moment. (Oracle)

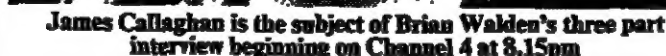
9.00 *A Killing on the Exchange*. John Field prepares to leave Carl Sillman's a now that he appears to have lost the promotion race for his mistress to Dan Maitland. The last episode. (Oracle)

10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Sandy Gall includes a report from Peter Sharp in Moccambique with the Frelimo forces.

10.30 The London Programme. An investigation into the London Labour Party's Gay Rights campaign. Among those interviewed is Ken Livingstone. Followed by LWT News headlines.

11.05 *Film: Alfie* (1966) starring Michael Caine as an aristocrat and philanderer recounting lurid stories concerning his many conquests. With, among others, Vivien Merchant, Sherry Stimps, Jane Asher, and Denholm Elliott. Directed by Lewis Gilbert.

1.05 Live at Witebaak's. Blues music from Minnesota. Ends 1.15.



2.15 Their Lordships' House. (r)
2.30 Channel 4 Racing from Ayr. Brough Scott introduces coverage of the ICI Penfold Novices' Hurdle (5.50); the Glen International Scottish Champion Hurdle (3.10); the Edinburgh Mile 'Eurosport' Novices' Chase (3.40); and the George Graham Memorial Handicap Chase (4.10)
4.30 Countdown. The final of the 19th competition and John Clark, the number one seed, meets David Reid, seeded number seven.
5.15 Wild of England presented by Richard Evans.
5.30 The Tube presented by Jools Holland and Paula Yates. Among those who have been on the Tube, Echo and the Bunnymen, Joe Jackson, and the Very Things. On film is Lionel Ritchie.
7.00 Channel 4 News with Michael Owen and Anne Perkins includes a report on the growth of American-style television evangelism in Britain. Weather.
7.50 Book Choices. Caroline Mook, the first Fellow of Peterhouse College, Cambridge, reviews the re-issue of Robert Elsmers, written in 1886 by Mrs Henry Ward, considered by Tolstoy to be the greatest English novelist.
8.00 What the Papers Say with Michael Gargan.
8.15 Callaghan. The first of three programmes in which James Callaghan reflects on life and politics with Brian Walden, (see Choice)
9.00 The Good Doctor. A new series starring Elliot Gould as the world-weary Howard Sheldahl, a doctor working in the Emergency Room of a large inner-city hospital. Tonight, his teenage daughter turns up for treatment, bringing the blizzards of a freezing Chicago winter.
9.30 Plant the Free. Part two of the series from the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley. (Oracle)
0.00 Cheers. Woody receives a letter from his former girlfriend, and decides to investigate Sam's little black book of names and addresses. (Oracle)
0.30 The Last Resort with Jonathan Ross. The guests are Terry Gilliam, Dr Ruth Westheimer, Dawn French, and, with a song, Tom Jones.
1.20 The Beforeman (1968) starring Nicol Williamson, David Warner, and Ian Holm. Drama, set in a British Army barracks in January in 1954, about a clash between a lance-corporal hoping to become a commissioned officer, and fiery-tempered Irish gunner. Directed by Jack Gold. Ends at 1.55.

OLIVETTI FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD

NF (medium wave). Stereo on
VHF (see below)
News 7:00am-9:00am
 9:30am until 9:50pm then 10:00
 and 12:00 midnight
 5:30am **Adrian John 7:00**
 Mike Smith's Breakfast Show **9:30**
 Simon Bates 12:30pm
 Newsbeat (Frank Partridge) **12:45**
 Gary Davies 3:00 Bruno
 Brockwell 5:00 Newsbeat (Frank
 Partridge) 5:45 6:00pm
 7:00 Andy Peebles 10:00-12:00
 The Friday Rock Show. **VHF**
 Stereo **RADIOS 1 and 2- 4.00am**
 As Radio 2 **10.00pm** As Radio
 1 **12.00-4.00am** As Radio 2

MIF (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see Radio 1).

News on the hour (except 7.00pm)
7.00pm **Newsnight** 8.00pm **Desire**
6.31, 7.31, 8.31, 12.01pm
1.05, 2.02, 3.01, 4.02, 5.02, 6.02, 6.45 (mtf only), 9.55, 11.02, 12.05pm.

4.00am Colin Berry **5.30 Ray Moore** **7.30 Derek Jameson** **9.30 Ken Bruce** **11.00 David Frost**
1.05pm David Jacobs **6.00 Gloria Hunniford**
1.55 John Dunn **7.00 A Song For Europe** (simultaneous broadcast with BBC2) **8.00 Friday Night Is Music Night** **9.15 The Organist Entertains** **10.00 Paul Hudson Sings** **10.30 Press Gang** **11.00 Stuart Hall** **11.00am Nightshade** **3.00-4.00 A Little Night Music**

[illegible]

News 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00
 News 11.08 Commentary 11.15 From the
 Weeklies 11.30 Multitrack 3 12.00 News
 12.12.09 News About Britain 12.15 Radio
 Newsweek 12.30 Society Today 12.45
 Recording of the Week 1.00 News 1.01
 Outlook 1.30 Soccertracking 1.45 Nature
 Outlook 2.00 News 2.05 Review of the
 British Press 2.16 Network UK 2.30
 People and Politics 3.00 News 3.05 News
 About Britain 3.15 World Today (until 3.30)
 3.45 Reflections 4.50 Financial News 5.00
 News 5.08 Twenty-Four Hours: News
 Summary (until 5.30) All times in GMT.

6.35 Open University. Education bulletin. Unit 6.35
6.55 Weather. 7.00 News
7.05 Morning Concert: Zipoti (Suite in F: Jean-Francois Paillard CO, with Maurice André, trumpet), Martucci (Nocturne: LSO under Chailly), Chailly (Symphony in B flat: Belgian RSO under Serbrier). 8.00 News
8.05 Concert (cont'd): Handel (Concerto Grosso in D minor, Op 6 No 10: EGO

9.05 This Week's Composer: Stravinsky, *Agon* (London Sinfonietta under David Atherton), *Regulament* (Columbia SO, Ithaca College Choir, and soloists, conducted by Robert Craft), *Variations for orchestra*, *Aldous Huxley in memoriam* (Columbia SO under Robert Craft), *Oreland*

10.00 Craft, piano)
Langham: Chamber
Orchestra (under
Mercedith Davies), Haydn
(Symphony No 42),
Robert Fuchs (Serenade No
4)
10.55 Halmut Krebs: the tenor
with Simon Standage
(violin), Suki Tawb (cello)
and Celia Harper (organ
and harpsichord).
Buxtehude (Singet dem
Herrn), Telemann (Paecke
dich, geliebter Drache)
11.30 Glenn Gould: piano
recital. Scriabin (Sonata
No 3 in F sharp minor,
Op 23), Prokofiev (Sonata

(under Bernhard Klee),
with Miriam Fried (violin).
Part one, Mozart
(Symphony No 35), Spohr
(Violin Concerto No 8).
1.00 News
1.05 BBC Philharmonic
Orchestra concert
(continued): Ravel (Alborada
de gracioso; Pavane
pour une infante défunte;
Bolero.
1.40 Virginia Black:
harpsichord recital. J C

1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World

Bach (Sonatas in C minor,
Op 5 No 6 and E, Op 5
No 5), W F Bach (Polonaises
No 1, No 2 and No 8)

2.15 Rachmaninov's Second
Symphony: played by
Los Angeles PO under
Rattle

3.20 Celso sonatas: Richard
Lusher (cello), Susan
Tomes (piano), Beethoven's
Sonata in D, Op 102 No
2; Schumann's
Fantasiestücke, Op 73;
Weber's Three Little Pieces,
Op 11

organist is Simon Winget,
and the Master of the
Choirers, Jonathan
Leonard.

5.00 World Service News
5.05 Mainly for Pleasure:
recorded music
selection, presented by
Michael Berkeley. **6.05**
News

7.00 Lenten Oratorios:
Carissimi (Judicium
Salomonis: Gabrieli Consort
and Players), Marc-
Antoine Charpentier
(Méditation: l'Infer-
no: Concerto Vocale)

7.30 Quiltes e canções. Esporá-

8.00 Bourne-mouth SO (under Vernon Handley). With Felix Schmidt (cello). Part one. Dvorak (Cello Concerto). A live transmission from the Guildhall in Southampton.

8.40 The Fog of War: conflict and technology. Talk by Lawrence Freedman, Professor of War Studies, King's College, London

9.00 Bourne-mouth Symphony Orchestra

10.00 *Sirius* (Symphony No 9)
Theatre of the Absurd:
Dinsdale Landon, Gwen
Watford and Alison
Steadman in James
Saunders's *Barnstable* (see
Choice)

10.30 Schubert: the song-
cycle *Die schöne
Müllerin*. Anthony Rolfe
Johnson (tenor),
Graham Johnson (piano)

11.57 News. **12.00**
Closedown

Service: MF 648kHz/463m.

LF (long wave), (s) stereo on VHF
5.55 Shipping **6.00** News
 Weather **6.10** Farming
6.25 Prayer (s)
6.30 Today (incl **6.30**, **7.30**,
8.30 News **6.45**
 Business News **6.55**, **7.55**
 Weather **7.00**, **8.00**
 News **7.25**, **8.25** Sport
7.45 Thought for the
 Day **8.35** Yesterday's News
 Parliament **8.50** Letters
8.57 Weather; Travel
9.00 News
9.05 Desert Island Discs.
 Anthony Andrews, actor.

9:00	News	<p>What's on Your List? (new series) Marjorie Lothhouse talks to Sebastian Coe about the day he ran the 1500 metres final at the Moscow Olympics.</p>
10:00	News; International Assignment. BBC correspondent's report from around the world	
10:30	Morning Story, Ashes to Ashes by Jeremy Tiptaft. Read by Kim Wall.	
10:45	Daily Service. From the Crypt Chapel of the Palace of Westminster (s)	
11:00	News; Travel; The World of William	

11.48 **Blind Dates.** Peter White recalls his problems as a blind adolescent in coping with first encounters with the opposite sex.

12.00 **News: The Food Programme** with Derek Cooper

12.27 **Futuristic comedy** drama starring David Threlfall (s)

1.00 **The World at One.** News

1.40 **The Archers 1.55** Shipping

2.00 **News: Woman's Hour** from Bristol. Includes a feature on the joys and pain

- 3.00** News; Martin Chuzzlewit by Charles Dickens in 10 parts. The final episode (r)
- 4.00** News
- 4.05** Inheritance (new series) The Green Roofs of Windermere. David Bean talks to George Pattinson about his family's influence on the growth of the Windermere area
- 4.30** Kaleidoscope
- 5.00** PM. News magazine

WHF 97.3, Capital 1340kHz/1340

- 5.50 Shipping 5.55**
Weather
- 6.00 News, Financial report**
- 6.30 Going Places, Clive Jacobs** and his team survey the world of travel and transport
- 7.00 News**
- 7.05 The Archers**
- 7.20 Pick of the Week.**
Margaret Howard selects moments from BBC television and radio programmes
- 8.20 Any Questions? Joining**
John Timmins in

9.05 **Time Remembered.** Ian Skidmore talks to Richard Evans, former coxswain of the Moëtise lifeboat and holder of two RNLI Gold medals

9.30 **Letter from America by** Anita Cooke

9.45 **Kaleidoscope.** Poet Gavin Ewart reviews

10.15 *A Book at Bedtime.*
Victory by Joseph
Conrad (15), Read by John
Franklyn-Robbins
10.30 *The World Tonight*
11.00 *Today in Parliament*
11.15 *The Financial World*
Tonight
11.30 *Week Ending. Satirical*
review (s)
12.00 *News; weather 12.23*
Shipping
VHF (available in England and
S Wales only) as above
except: 5.55-6.00
Weather; Travel 11.00-12.00
For Schools: The

Chen Qiang's story
11.40 The Passants Revolt
(s) 1.55-3.00pm For
Schools: 1.55 Listening
Corner (s) 2.00
Business and Practical
French 2.30 Black
Poetry 5.50-5.55 PM
(continued) 12.30-
1.10am Schools Night Time
Broadcasting. Quest 9:
Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr 10:
The Pilgrimage to Mecca
(s).

on: VHF95.8; BBC Radio London

